Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 13 • No. 4 • May 1997

PURP Conference

Philadelphia gardeners are invited to attend the **Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership**'s (PURP) conference, ***Helping Communities to Enhance Their Natural Environment.*** Sessions will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Streets, June 6, 7 & 8.

Philadelphia Green staff will be involved in several of the workshops:

- **Garden Development** --Site Analysis, Design & Getting Started. Breakout exercises will include making site designs for community gardens, park restoration, large open lots, and wildlife habitats.
- **Urban Trees** --Community Participation & City Policy. Learn to plant and care for young trees and to maintain them as they mature.

Other sessions will include:

- **Vacant Land Management**
- **Watershed Management**

ALL ARE INVITED. You do not need to be a PURP Grant recipient or prospective recipient to attend.

The conference is organized by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. For a brochure or more information, call 215-563-0250.

The New Neighbors -- Speaking The Language of Gardening

Ines Nelson teaches English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at **Lea Elementary School** at 47th & Spruce in West Philadelphia. This year her class has 22 children who speak 17 different languages and dialects. Her students arrived from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Pakistan, Somalia, and Turkey, and most spoke no English at all.

One of her approaches is to teach these students from such diverse backgrounds a universal language — gardening. Everyone has special foods and flowers from their native cultures, and she finds their names in English.

This year her students visited the Philadelphia Flower Show, and saw many new kinds of plants, as well as some familiar ones from their homelands. They turned the visit into a classroom project, doing art work and sharpening their writing skills by composing letters based on their trip to the Show.

Sinen Dip wrote: "I liked all the beautiful flowers. I have seen some of them in my home country, Cambodia." **Tomas Ayele,** who drew tulips, daisies and daffodils in his letter, wrote: "In my country, Eritrea, we have beautiful flowers. I would like to see flowers from Africa." Tomas was very surprised to see people throw money into the fountains.

The class practices some of its own horticulture and expects to win ribbons at the **Junior Flower Show**, where they will exhibit the English lavender they are growing under lights in their classroom.

Students at Lea School attended the Philadelphia Flower Show and turned it into a study session.

What's Coming Up

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 3 **Philadelphia Green Spring Garden Sale** Fairmount Park Horticulture Center
Sat. 9 AM to 4 PM Open to Philadelphia Green gardeners only.

May 8 **Herb Sale** Yellow Springs Art Center, Yellow Springs
Thur., 10:00 AM-4:00 PM Sponsored by **Herb Society of America, Phila. Chapter**

May 22 **City Hall in Bloom** Sponsored by **PNC Bank, Fairmount Park Commission, PHS**
Thur., 9:00 AM - noon For info, call Flossie at 988-8897

June 2-6 **PHS's Junior Flower Show** At the **Philadelphia County Fair**,
Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park

Mon., June 2, 11 am to 6 pm	Registration
Tues., June 3, 5 pm to 8:30 pm	Open to the Public
Wed., June 4, 9:30 am to 8:30 pm	Open to the Public
Thurs., June 5, 9:30 am to 6 pm	Open to the Public
Fri., June 6, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm	Entry Removal

June 7,8 **Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership (PURP) Conference**
See front page article

What to Plant in May & June

Plant seeds:
annual flowers
beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots

Plant transplants:
broccoli
cabbage
collards
cauliflower
tomatoes
sweet potatoes

Wait for June:
peppers
lima beans
eggplants
okra

Tips for transplanting

Pick the perfect transplant
- buy short, stocky plants
- look for vegetable plants that DON'T have flowers or fruit
- don't let transplants wilt

Plant when conditions are best
- after rain or before rain
- on a cloudy day
- in late afternoon

How to plant
- remove gently from pot
- handle by root ball, rather than by stem or leaves
- for undivided market packs, slice roots apart gently and evenly
- set plant in soil at same level as it was in the pot
- firm the soil around the root ball, then water to remove air pockets
- after soil settles, add enough dry soil to fill the hole
- remove any flowers or buds to encourage strong root systems

One week later
- water with liquid plant food, following directions on label.

Last Frost!!!

Official last frost date for Philadelphia is **May 1st,** but be prepared to cover tomatoes if the temperature drops below 50 °.

First Ripe Tomato on the Vine

Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA), the organization that works to save gardens from being sold, is sponsoring a

First Ripe Tomato on the Vine Contest.

A gift certificate will be awarded to the community gardener who produces the first vine-ripened tomato of the season. An NGA staffer must see the tomato on the vine.

Contestants should call NGA at **988-8897** when the tomato is ripe.

Last Frost!!!

Official last frost date for Philadelphia is May 1st, but be prepared to cover tomatoes if the temperature drops to 40 °.

NGA Can Help

Most community gardeners don't own the land where they garden. At any time, the landowner can put the property up for sale or request that the gardeners vacate the land. **The Neighborhood Gardens Association** helps gardeners preserve their gardens by offering help with various real estateissues and land ownership. Options range from NGA actually acquiring the land itself to NGA assisting gardening groups with the real estate research, negotiations, and legal work necessary to acquire the gardens themselves. In either case, the joy of gardening and the day-to-day garden management remains in the hands of the gardeners.

To find out more about how NGA can help save your garden, call 988-8797.

Houseplant Reminder

Now that the days are getting longer, houseplants will begin to come out of their winter hibernation and start putting forth active growth. Help them along by fertilizing with a 1/4 solution of instant plant food (Peter's or Miracle Gro is ideal). To get the right strength, mix up enough for a quart, put in a gallon jug, and top off with water. For best results, use water that's been sitting out overnight, since the chlorine will have evaporated.

Free Seeds

The America the Beautiful Fund provides FREE SEEDS to community groups for the price of postage. Requests of more than 50 packets must be accompanied by a description of your project.

For more information, contact:

America the Beautiful Fund
219 Shoreham Building,
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202-638-1649

Help Put City Hall in Bloom May 22

Thanks to a grant from **PNC Bank**, City Hall will sport a burst of color this spring. On the heels of a major citizen clean-up of our city treasure in March, **Fairmount Park** and **PHS** staff members are working together on a design and organizing a volunteer work day to plant annuals in the courtyard and tree beds on the north and east sidewalks of City Hall. The planting is scheduled for May 22nd.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Flossie Narducci at 988-8897.

Attention City Gardeners!!

Be a Judge:

Spend one day this summer tiptoeing through the tulips or high-stepping amidst tobacco, cotton, zinnias & zucchini. Visit gardens as large as a city block or as tiny as the corner of a backyard. We need your expertise.

Be a Contestant:

While you're primping and pruning in your garden, watch for the City Gardens Contest entry blank in the mail, or call 988-8897. Show us your stuff!

DEADLINE IS JUNE 10th.

Call Flossie Narducci at 988-8897 to volunteer as a judge or to register as a contestant.

Cultivating Kids

Junior Flower Show Promotes Cultural Exchange at the Philadelphia County Fair

Show dates are June 3rd, 4th & 5th, in conjunction with the two-week-long Philadelphia County Fair. The partnership with the County Fair at Memorial Hall means that many more people will be able to view the exhibits of the region's budding horticulturists.

Any child or childrens' group pre-K through 12th grade can enter. Call 988-8897 to request a copy of the Junior Flower Show handbook.

ARTISTIC CLASSES

1. ***It's a Small World*** A small, festive arrangement, of fresh and /or dried plant material. Must include a flag or a representaion of a flag.
2. ***Foreign Exchange*** A fresh flower arrangement incorporating flowers and/or fruits and vegetables for a foreign visitor.
3. ***Folk "Tails" -- Crafty Creatures*** Creatures made from only dried plant material, seed pods, etc., representing a creature from folklore. Must be 3-dimensional and freestanding.
4. ***Teepee Treasures*** Native American jewelry made from or with seeds, beans and dried material. May include ribbon, beads, and/or feathers. NO MACARONI.
5. ***Roots*** An arrangement of only dried flowers and plants. Must include roots, bark and/or dried branches. Accessories permitted.
6. ***Chinese New Year Mask*** A full face mask decorated with natural materials such as dried flowers, weeds, seeds, etc.
7. ***Let's Celebrate -- Scarecrow*** A scarecrow dressed for an ethnic festival.
8. ***Passport Please --Pressed Plant Bookmark*** Create a page from a passport. Design must include photo or drawing of the traveler and use pressed flowers/foliage to make the design.
9. ***Eggcitement -- Ukrainian Egg*** A vegetable block print design in the shape of a Ukraininan egg, using cut vegetables as the printing tools.
10. ***Global Exchange*** A pinata representing a mode of transportation or communication.

ENTRY RULES

- Check age division eligibility before entering artistic classes.
- Each exhibitor will be permitted to exhibit only one entry in each artistic class.
- Each artistic class is limited to a total of 10 entries from each classroom or group.
- All plants must have been grown by the exhibitor, except in artistic classes. All plants must have been cared for by the exhibitor for at least two months prior to the Show, and have been grown in exhibit containers.
- An exhibitor may have more than one entry in a horticultural class if plants are of different varieties.
- Artificial plants not permitted. Everything used must be natural. Accessories are permitted where specified.
- Some horticultural classes are limited. Please bring only the number of entries allowed under each class.

Take the Renaissance Challenge

Register to receive **FREE** seeds for the Challenge Classes of the 1997 Harvest Show, ***Renaissance Harvest***

What is a Challenge Class?

All participants grow their entries in a container from the same variety of seeds. In addition to quality, size and condition, the entries in this class are judged according to how typical they are to a variety standard. Participants will bring their specimens to the Harvest Show on either Thursday, September 24th or Friday September 25th.

The 1997 selections are:

Lavender 'Lady"

The romantic fragrance and beauty of lavender in the garden and home is not to be missed! Great in the perennial garden or dried in potpourri and sachets. Grow in full sun and well-drained soil. 'Lady' flowers early fom seed (90 days), is 8-10 inches high, 10 inches wide, and has abundant lavender flowers.

Cherry Tomato 'Red Robin'

The sweetest, best flavor ever in a dwarf, container-type tomato. Only 8-12 inches tall, the dark green plants offer tomatoes with tender skins and mild flavor in 63 days. A determinate plant, superb for hanging baskets.

Ornamental Kale 'Nagoya'

With its frilly leaves and long-season fall color, Nagoya is ideal in containers or as a bedding choice to plant over frost-killed annuals for fall and winter effect. Its bright colors are durable, and remain cheerfully clear until Christmas.

tear off and return

I would like to enter the 1997 Harvest Show Challenge Class. Please send me the following seeds:

_____ **Lavender 'Lady'** _____ **Cherry Tomato 'Red Robin'** _____ **Ornamental Kale 'Nagoya'**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Please return to:

Flossie Narducci
CHALLENGE CLASS
100 N. 20th Street 5th floor
Phila PA 19103-1495

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215-988-8800

May 1997

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Digging in the Dirt

We recently highlighted last Fall's tree planting activities in **New Kensington**, an area targeted for a five year pilot open space management program involving the **New Kensington Community Development Corporation** and Philadelphia Green. The program was initiated last year with funding from the City's **Office of Housing and Community Development.** Beginning this year, additional support is being provided by **The William Penn Foundation** and **The Pew Charitable Trust's Foundation forUrban Neighborhood Development.**

I recently spoke with **Lorena Mierau** and **Jerry Rhoads,** two members of the **New Kensington Open Space Committee**, who consider the 20-member committee a wonderful catalyst for community gre... in the neighborhood. Because the members are known as people who care about their community, they hope that their neighbors can easily identify with them and become more involved.

Lorena Mierau and her neighbors on the **2100 block of E. Cumberland St.** started meeting together more than two years ago and formed the **United Neighbors for Community Progress**. It soon became evident that the vacant lot at the corner of Cumberland and Frankford Ave. would become a detriment to their progress unless they took immediate action. **Joan James**, one of the neighbors, contacted City Councilperson **Frank DiCicco**, who attended a number of their block meetings and helped obtain a fence for the site to prevent dumping. Since then, neighbors have worked side by side to turn the lot into a garden. Lorena spends some of her time going out to get the materials they need and **Tung Ngyuen** leads the neighborhood work crew in laying brick, building the pergola, and making the fish pond. While everyone clearly has his or her own ideas about how the garden should look, people are able to push past their differences and compromise for the sake of their common goal. Their physical work on the site seems to bring them closer together.

Jerry Rhoads has a clear vision for the six-house lot on the **2000 block of E. Hazzard St**. About seven years ago, he recruited his brother, his kids and kids from ...ound the neighborhood to move 400 tires, stoves, hot ...ater heaters and more from the lot. Jerry and his team have kept it a clean, open space since then, leveling the ground, filling in sink holes, sowing and mowing the grass. The gate is open from morning to early evening and people are free to sit, play cards, or throw a few horseshoes. Jerry considers the space a sanctuary where neighbors can come to commune with a bit of nature in their corner of New Kensington.

As we go along, we will tell more stories about neighbors in New Kensington, people like Lorena and Jerry who share a vision and turn it into reality.

Patricia Schrieber
Outreach Manager

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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PHS Tackles the River Front

The great view of the river at Penn's Landing just got even better! Hugging the entryways at Market, Walnut and Lombard Streets are lush new plantings of cleome, coreopsis, asters and others. These plantings, well-suited to exposed, windy environments and heavy foot traffic, add to the mood of a day of music, sightseeing and wandering along the river.

Who's behind all this? The answer: the combined efforts of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society with **Penn's Landing Corporation** and the **Interstate Land Management Corporation**, (**ILMC**), the non-profit entity formed to manage areas alongside and underneath I-95 in Center City.

ILMC properties from Callowhill to Jackson Streets and between Front Street and Delaware Avenue are becoming increasingly scenic as the grassy banks around the highway fill with colorful plant designs.

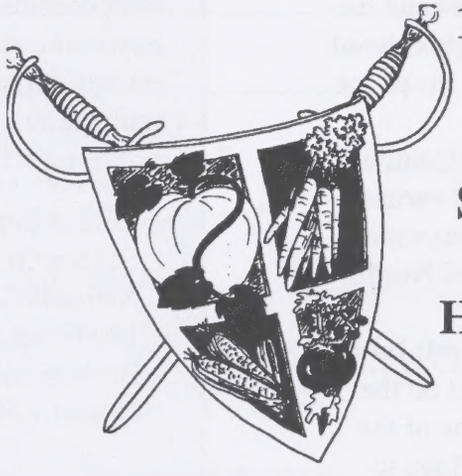
How did it start? **ILMC** was created in 1990 in response to the community's concern for the land surrounding the now constructed I-95 access ramps by the Delaware River. **Barry Promos**, director of ILMC, hired PHS's **Public Landscapes Department** to manage the landscapes in 1991, fulfilling a need for attractive, natural areas along the highway.

Since then, PHS, along with **The Delta Group**, the landscape architects hired by PHS, has renovated three cover parks: **Old City Park, Dock Street Park**, and the **Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Park**, in addition to several other smaller parcels.

After passing by these ILMC sites each day on his way to work, **James J. Cuorato**, executive vice president of **Penn's Landing Corporation** and a member of the Board of directors for ILMC, was convinced that PHS could do similar landscape improvements at Penn's Landing. In 1995, The Penn's Landing Corporation joined forces with PHS to begin a multi-phased rehabilitation project extending from Market to Lombard Streets between Columbus Blvd. and the Delaware River.

Old Parks Meet New Parks

In late May, the Philadelphia Green Parks Revitalization Program introduced six new parks that we will work with in the next few years in conjunction with the Recreation Department. **Elmwood, Fairhill, Carroll, Wissinoming, Malcolm X and Gorgas Park** will receive support and technical assistance in revitalizing their parks. Parks already completed or in progress, including **Norris Square, Wharton Square and Vernon Park,** will network to help accomplish future goals for all the parks. We look forward to seeing these parks host events and fun activities in the years to come.



1998 Harvest Show

Renaissance Harvest

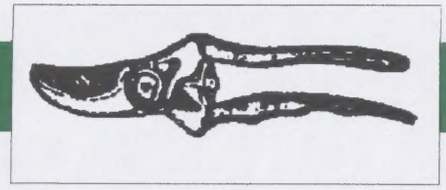
September 13 & 14

Fairmount Park Horticultural Center

Harvest Party

Sept 13, 6-8:30 PM

Grow With Us!



Clippings

Starting a Vegetable Garden?

Is your block interested in starting a new vegetable garden? Spaces are still available in the next Philadelphia Green Garden Tenders Training. Your group can get fencing, soil, seeds & plants if you qualify.

Proposed gardens must be AT LEAST 50% vegetable plots.

Groups must bring AT LEAST three people to 12 hours of training and workdays.

For more information, call Cheryl Walker at 988-8845 and ask for the **Vegetable Garden Tenders' Fact Sheet.**

Vacant Land on the Radio!

J. Blaine Bonham, Jr. vice president, Programs at PHS, made his debut this summer on "**Radio Times**", a Public Radio talk show covering news and public affairs. The theme of the Show, hosted by executive producer **Marty Moss-Coane**, was Urban Vacant Land.

Bonham, and guest **Sandy Salzman**, deputy director of the **New Kensington Community Development Corporation**, talked about Philadelphia Green's successes with large and small community gardens, tree parks and mini-parks. They also discussed community-managed garden centers and the idea of market gardens, where neighborhood groups and individuals could grow crops for profit.

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission reports an inventory of 15,000 vacant lots, and an additional 27,000 vacant structures in the City's neighborhoods of North, South and West Philadelphia.

PHS's 1995 survey, **Vacant Land: Issues and Recommendations** mentioned on the Show, investigates thoroughly some of the issues discussed. It's available for loan to members at PHS's McLean Library.

New at the Harvest Show

As part of our contining efforts to introduce new ideas to our gardening public, we'll be adding a new feature at the Harvest Show this year.

The **Junior Gardeners' Studio**, held at 11 AM and 1 PM of September 13 & 14, will provide hands-on demonstrations for kids on Butterflies, Composting and other topics. Learn about gardening while having fun!

Also new in the Childrens' Tent -- **Grape Stomping.** Learn the "old fashioned" way to make grape juice, jelly, and follow the grapes to the Lecture Tent where adults will see a demonstration on how to make wine! *(For complete schedule of activities, see Cultivating Kids)*

Youth Garden Grants

The National Gardening Association is pleased to announce that applications for its 15th annual Youth Garden Grants Program are available. NGA, a member-supported non-profit organization based in Burlington, Vermont, will award 300 grants to schools and youth programs nationwide for use during the 1998 growing season.

Each grant, worth more than $700, consists of quality tools, seeds, plants and garden products contributed by Ames Lawn & Garden Tools and 27 leading companies from the lawn and garden industry.

Gardening programs involving at least 15 children between the ages of 3-18 years are eligible, with consideration given for educational, social, or environmental programming; sustainability; community support; strong leadership; need, and innovation.

To receive an application, access their Worldwide website at http://www.garden.org or write to:

Garden Grants Dept. PS,
National Gardening Association
180 Flynn Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401.
Or call 1-800-LETS GRO

Deadline for completed applications is **November 15, 1997.**

Harvest Show -- September 13th & 14th

Join the fun!!! Be a part of the excitement that is generated each September at the Harvest Show. Experience the thrill of winning a ribbon by entering the best from your garden. Celebrate at the Harvest Party with good music, good food and good friends.

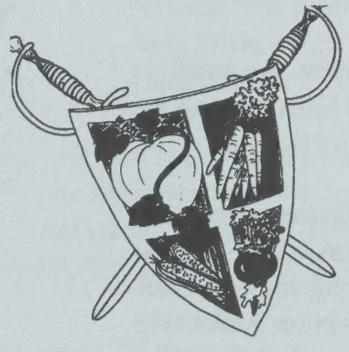
Feeling timid about entering something from your garden? Overcome your inhibitions and show off your gardening skills.

To enter, fill out and mail the this entry form. We'll send you entry tags and information about registration.

Harvest Show Entry Form

Mail to: Harvest Show Entries
PHS
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Phila, PA 19103-1495

TRANSPORTATION:
From Center City take SEPTA Bus Route #38.
FREE PARKING IS AVAILABLE AT THE HORTICULTURE CENTER.



To enter the Harvest Show call PHS at 988-8800 for an Exhibitor's Schedule.

Exhibitor _____

Street Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

Phone(_____) _____

Member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society? ____ Yes ____ No
First-time Harvest Show Exhibitor? ____ Yes ____ No

Garden/Garden Club/Horticultural Organization _____

Name of local newspaper _____

Please check entry type(s)

____ Design
____Pressed Plants
____Preserved Product
____Baked Goods
____Horticulture
____High School
____Youth

Entering the Harvest Show

When your Harvest Show Booklet arrives:

- Read it carefully.
- Look over your plants and go through the classes in the schedule. There is at least one class in this show for everyone!
- Complete and mail in the postcard in the center of your booklet so that entry cards can be mailed to you. Entering ahead of time will put you in the express lane at registration, and will help us enormously. However, you can make entries without pre-registering by bringing them in during Registration (Thursday 5-8 PM and Friday 7:30-10:00 AM.)
- Fill out your entry cards ahead of time and use only indelible ink or a dark pencil, since tags often get wet. Address labels are great.

Flowers

- **Insure having flowers to show.** As much ahead as possible, cut off all faded blooms and multiple buds for larger, better flowers.
- **Gather carefully.** Cut the flowers either the evening before or early that morning, using a sharp knife. Cut the stems long and on a slant to permit greater water absorption. Make sure to gather enough to make a good choice. When finished cutting, put flowers in warm water in a cool place.
- **Get the right number, size and quality of flowers.** Flowers should be opened but not faded, have long stems, clean foliage, be similar in size and color, and be free from blemishes.
- **Make sure flowers are secure in container.** Set arrangement so best side is facing forward. Judges will measure entries, so make sure your entries are the size stated in the rule book. Be sure containers are filled with cool water to insure fresh blooms. Provide containers for all arrangements.
- **Label carefully**. Make sure to fully complete a tag for each entry. Remember — all entries are to be made in the name of the community garden. Only one entry per class for each garden. Be sure to look in the schedule for any special rules for each class before entering. Take care that all entries remain as fresh as possible.

Vegetables

- **Gather them carefully.** Water the day before picking. Loosen the ground around root crops before picking. Bring warm water to the garden to place stems of leafy vegetables in immediately after picking. Pick tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and squash with about 1/2 inch of stem. Leave beans with short stems. Cut beet and carrot tops to 2" long. Check judging rules before picking to check on any special way a particular vegetable is to be shown.
- **Gather enough to get a good choice.** Harvest more than the number required to exhibit. For example, since 10 identical beans are required, bring 12 or 15 to be in the safe side.
- **Choose vegetables of right size, number and quality.** Uniform vegetables are best, as alike as possible in size, shape and color. The best ones to choose are of market quality (what you see in the supermarket), of edible quality, and free from blemishes. Remember that oversized veggies are not of best quality and are immediately eliminated from competition, but can be exhibited as "Harvest Heroes."
- **Wash vegetables, but don't scrub off the skin**. Use water and your hands to clean vegetables, not stiff brushes. Don't leave them soaking in water after washing. Add salt or vinegar to kill bugs and worms. Watch out for nicks by nails on tender-skinned vegetables. Check the undersides of leaves of collards and other greens for stubborn bugs like aphids and eliminate these with soapy water and a cotton swab.

First Ripe Tomato a Winner!

Yvonne Mason, Point Breeze resident and **Garden of Eatin'** community gardener (25th & Dickinson) won first prize in the "First Ripe Tomato on the Vine" contest sponsored by the Neighborhood Gardens Association. The prize was a gift certificate to Home Depot.

Diagnosed with Uveitis and now legally blind, Yvonne noticed her tomato was getting "light," but her mother **Rosetta Little**, also a veteran gardener, told her "No, that tomato is red and ripe."

Now visually-impaired, Yvonne's lifelong gardening interest has become her full-time therapy where she finds inner-peace amongst the growing flowers, vegetables and chirping birds. Through gardening, Yvonne continues many of her favorite pastimes. "I love flowers, I love to cook and I love to make desserts!" Growing big yields of vegetables and fruits, Yvonne freezes them into one-serving packets and enjoys them all winter.

The "First Ripe Tomato on the Vine" contest is an annual event sponsored by the **Neighborhood Gardens Association.** NGA is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening. Garden groups interested in more information about NGA's garden preservation services are invited to call 215-988-8797.

Seed Savers' Conference

Penn State University is sponsoring a conference on **Preserving Crop Diversity and Saving Seeds in the Northeast**, November 14 & 15, 1997, Toftrees Conference Center in State College, PA. Guest Speakers are **Kent Whealy** from the **Seed Savers' Exchange** and **Pat Mooney** from the **Rural Advancement Fund International.**

The goal of the conference is to bring together seed savers, small seed companies, representatives of the National Germplasm System, non-governmental organizations, academics, farmers and gardeners to discuss issues, build networks, and learn strategies relating to crop diversity and seed saving.

Contact: **Dr. Carolyn Sachs,**
Penn State University, 814-863-8641.

Block Captains and Free Metal Trash Baskets

Last issue we published information about how community groups could get free wire trash cans for their streets. Since then, however, the Philadelphia More Beautification Committee (PMBC) has informed us that these are only available to Block Captains registered with PMBC. No Block Captain on your street? BECOME ONE!!! Here's how:

- Call PMBC at 686-3969.
- Ask them to send you a Block Captain petition. 51% of the block must sign the petition.
- Hold a block meeting to elect officers and to set goals for block cleanup and beautification.

If you still want a trash basket for your street after you have become Block Captain, contact Ann Jefferson at PMBC, 2601 W. Glenwood Ave., Phila, PA 10121.

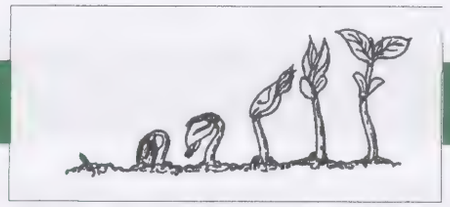
United Way Donor Option

Last year, PHS received $16,500 from PHS members and friends who used the United Way's Donor Option program. When you are considering a contribution to United Way, please remember that you too, can direct your United Way pledge or outright contribution to PHS through the Donor Option program, by filling in our Donor Option I.D. #06197 on your pledge form.

These contributions are vitally important to PHS because they represent unrestricted operating support, which is greatly needed but difficult to raise. Because contributions made to the PHS via United Way's Donor Option program are unrestricted, they can be used for a variety of purposes: Philadelphia Green programs like planting street trees; making soil and plant deliveries to community gardeners; helping to rehabilitate neighborhood parks; enhancing other PHS educational activities such as the Harvest Show or Gold Medal Plants.

To ensure that your contribution is directed to PHS, please note our Donor Option I.D. #06197 on your United Way pledge card.

What's Coming Up in September



September 8	Monday	5:30-7 PM	**Getting Ready for the Harvet Show** *(see below)* Aspen Farms, 49th & Aspen Cosponsored by Penn State's Urban Gardening Program For more info call Flossie at 988-8897
September 11	Thursday	5:30-8 PM	**Registration** for the Harvest Show
September 12	Friday	7:30-10 AM 4-7 PM	**Registration** for Harvest Show **Opening Celebration**
September 13	Saturday	10-5 12-4 6-8:30	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open Join the fun with your children Free Lectures & Demonstrations *(see below)* **HARVEST PARTY !!!!**
September 14	Sunday	10-5 12- 4	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open: Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple games, scarecrow making and more!

Harvest Show Lectures & Demos

Saturday, Sept 13

12:00 **New Trends in Flower Arranging**
Bernice Makin

1:00 **Container Gardens for Fall**
Michael Bowell, Flora Design Associates

2:00 **Butterfly Gardens**
Judith Levicoff, author, The Butterfly Garden

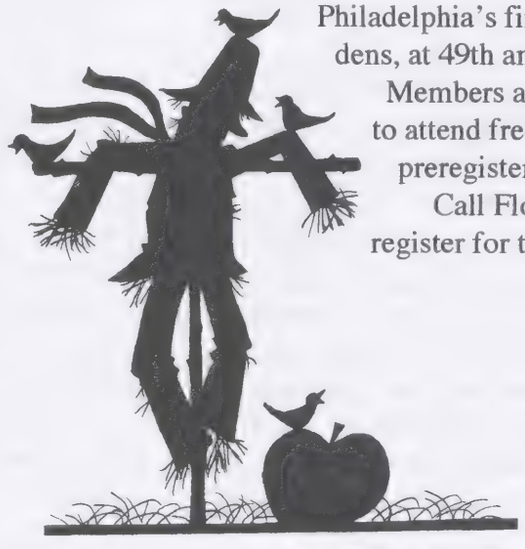
3:00 **Wine & Mead-Making**
Sally McCabe, Outreach Coordinator, PHS

Sunday, Sept 14

12:00 **Arranging the Harvest—**
Fruits, Vegetables & Flowers
Eva Monheim
Eve's Floral Creations

1:00 **Renaissance Herbs**
Lorraine Kiefer,
Triple Oaks Farm & Nursery

2:00 **Pepper Jewelry**
Gus Jardel, Arborist,
Fairmount Park Commission



Harvest Show Workshop

Monday, Sept. 8, 5:30 - 7:00pm
Aspen Farms, 49th & Aspen

Join **Philadelphia Green** and **Penn State's Urban Gardening Program** to get your entries ready for the Harvest Show. Learn how to prepare flowers, vegetables, herbs, and preserved products to win top prizes at the show.

Doris Stahl, garden advisor from the Penn State Urban Gardening staff, will conduct this workshop at Aspen Farms, one of Philadelphia's first community gardens, at 49th and Aspen Streets.

Members and guests are invited to attend free of charge, but must preregister.

Call Flossie at 988-8797 to register for this free workshop.

Flowers, shrubs, trees & houseplants

Plant fall flowering bulbs as soon as you can find them in garden centers. They will soon have a full stock of bulbs for fall planting. Buy early to make sure you get exactly what you want, and be sure to include some varieties for planting in pots to force into bloom early next spring. Dwarf iris and daffodils, crocus, and grape hyacinths are excellent for forcing, and most bulb displays mark the varieties recommended for forcin

Hold off fertilizing trees and shrubs until late fall. If you fertilize now, you may stimulate late growth that will be damaged by frost

Gardeners with cold porches or greenhouses where winter nighttime temperatures range between 40• and 50˚F. should **pot freesia bulbs** as soon as they are available for fragrant blooms in midwinter

If you've been taking care of them through the summer, your amaryllis should have lots of long, healthy leaves. **Now it's time to give the plants a rest.** Water less and less, gradually allow the foliage to die down, then don't water the bulbs for six weeks. After the rest period, remove brown foliage and repot bulbs in fresh soil, then resume watering and fertilizing

The cooler nights of September will encourage blooms on roses, annuals, and perennials if you do your bit by continuing to deadhead and keep plants free of insects and diseases.

Fall is an excellent time to change your landscape as it gets colder. If you're working with deciduous plants, those that lose their leaves in winter, water them heavily a couple of times several days apart, then transplant them shortly after the leaves fall. The sooner you move them after leaf drop, the more time the roots have to develop before the ground freezes. Most root growth on woody plants occurs between 40°and 90°F., with the most active root development at the lower end of the scale.

If you left pruning undone during the spring and summer, do it either later in the fall or early next spring. If you prune now, new growth will be stimulated by late summer rains, but it may be killed by winter frosts.

Let perennial foliage die back naturally so that it can continue to feed root systems.

To order your copy of *Jane Pepper's Garden* by mail, please send payment ($14.95 plus $1.05 sales tax and $3.00 shipping) to Camino Books, PO Box 59026, Phila, PA 19102, Credit card orders - 215-732-2491.

Bringing in the Houseplants

As cold weather approaches, it's time to consider bringing your houseplants in for the winter. Of course this may mean getting rid of a few pieces of furniture first to make room for the jungle. In any case, it's important to check for insects and other problems before moving them, since you'll have more room to work outdoors, and pests won't seem so overwhelming.

Check leaves carefully, especially the undersides, for aphids and mealybugs, as well as caterpillars. Wash off with soap and water, then with alcohol on a cotton swab if needed. Caterpillars and bigger bugs can be picked off by hand, or, if you're squeamish, knocked off into a cup of water and disposed of.

If you feel the need pull out the big guns for more difficult pest problems, dip or spray plants carefully while still outside, and leave them for a few days to air out before moving in. Repeat treatment if necessary, still giving it time to air out.

Start the process of clean-up and inspection before the end of September. This leaves enough time for plants to be inside by mid-October and get accustomed to the lower light levels before they also have to battle with the dry air from your heating system.

Give plants the best light available, while keeping them away from drafts, heating ducts and marauding cats. Don't be surprised if they start to look a little droopy and yellow a few weeks later. Plants as well as gardeners have to adjust to the shock of being indoors for the winter.

Cultivating Kids at the Harvest Show

SPECIAL EVENTS & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Farm Animals
Scarecrow Making
& Toddler Haystacks

10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Jack Eden, KYW's Garden Reporter answers your gardening questions
Saturday Only

11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Junior Gardeners' Studio
Children have fun while learning at this hands-on demonstration station.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Pumpkin painting, vegetable prints, apple games, miniature dried floral arrangements and decorating masks and hats for the "**Renaissance Parade**"

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. *Sunday Only*	**Philadelphia Zoo** -- A docent from the Philadelphia Zoo brings animals to the Children's Tent.
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	**Autumn Games** -- Enjoy the Sack races, the Bean Put, the Pumpkin Push and more!
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	**Strolling Musicians**
2 p.m. *Saturday only*	**Grape Stomping for children** followed by a **Wine Making Demonstration** at 3:00 p.m. for adults in the Lectures & Demonstrations Tent.
3 p.m.	**The "Renaissance Parade"** Decorate a mask and join the parade to celebrate Renaissance Harvest.
4 p.m.	**Robert Harvey dons his famous bee beard**!

- **Keep vegetables cool and crisp until ready to display.** Place leafy items in a plastic bag with a towel to soak up extra moisture. Wipe the bottom of lettuce with a little lemon juice or vinegar to prevent discoloration. Don't let eggplants, peppers, tomatoes or squash sit on bare racks as they will bruise. The less time between picking and displaying them the better they look.

- **For convenience during registration, pack each entry class** (all the sweet green peppers, all the cucumbers, etc.) **in a seperate zip-loc bag** with the filled-out tag included.

Getting Your Entry to the Show

- **Stake container plants** for extra support

- **Cut holes** in overturned cartons to fit pots.

- **A rod attached to the clothes-hanging fixture** in the car will support hanging baskets. Secure the rod or pole by sticking it between the window and the top of the car door; roll the window up as far as it will go to prevent slipping. To keep plant from swinging, attach it to a brick or cinderblock below the seat.

- **A bucket with a weight in the bottom** and stuffed with newspaper will also support a hanging basket during transport.

- **A box stuffed with newspaper** is also ideal for moving canned goods

- **When bringing vegetables or fruit** for entry, pack each set of entries (such as 3 tomatoes plus extras) in a separate bag with their completed entry tag. Too much time spent sorting entries at the Show could mean missed deadlines.

- **Transport flowers in water** if possible to prevent wilting. Avoid spills by filling jars only half way and standing them up in a box or bucket packed loosely with newspaper. Don't leave them sitting in the car in the sun while you unload other things.

- **Put an old rug or blanket** down in the car under entries. It helps prevent sliding and keeps the car clean.

- **Seat belts can be helpful** in supporting plants or cartons while transporting them.

- If you have large or heavy entries, or a large number of entries, a **dolly or wagon** of your own is a great help in moving your stuff to and from the car, especially for Sunday evening removal from the Show.

When to Register

Thursday, Sept 11 5:30-8 PM
Friday, Sept 12 6:30-10 AM

Where to Register

The **Fairmount Park Horticultural Center** is located on Horticultural Drive, near the intersection of Montgomery & Belmont Aves, near Belmont Plateau, in the West Park. Entry Aids at the front gate will direct you to the proper registration area for your entry.

At the Show

- **Arrive early!!!** Entering exhibits takes time!

- **Find a work table**.

- **Bring plants in and unpack carefully.** Save wrappings and remove all evidence of travel, such as stakes, wire damage to foliage, etc. Damaged foliage may be trimmed but must look natural.

- Bring exhibit to the **appropriate area** for passing.

- **Be sure the entry card** is with your exhibit.

- **Don't leave the exhibit area** until your entry is passed.

- **Be sure your plant is watered**, but be careful it's not so wet that it spoils the staging.

In Jane Pepper's vegetable garden:

When you remove crops from the vegetable garden, sow winter rye as a cover crop to hold the soil and provide additional organic matter to be turned next spring.

There's still time to sow lettuce seeds now for midwinter salads. Sow them indoors for a quicker start, or directly into a coldframe, if you have one. If you can find transplants already started in a nursery, buy a few for your earliest crop.

For late-summer frosts, have old blankets and other covers handy to throw over the tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and other tender crops. Often we'll have a glorious late summer, and you'll reap a glorious late harvest by taking precautions on those few cold nights.

Carrots, parsnips, leeks, and beets all seem to taste better after a couple of hard frosts, so leave these plants in the ground as long as possible. If you still have some left by Thanksgiving, cover the plants (leaves and all) with a six- to eight-inch layer of leaves (shredded if possible), and mark the rows to make sure you can find them after a snowfall. In most winters, you'll find that the soil won't freeze under the mulch and you'll be able to harvest fresh vegetables throughout the winter.

Leave winter squash on the vine until the skin is hard and resists pressure from your thumbnail.

After turning the garden over, sow a couple of small rows of spinach. To speed germination, soak the seed for 24 hours in water. The tops will die during the winter, but the same plants will produce a spring harvest much earlier than anything you can plant in early March.

As long as the weather is not too cold, pumpkins will keep well if left on the vine in the garden. When harvesting pumpkins, cut stems carefully with pruning shears. If the stem tears from the fruit, it may rot.

Pick gourds before frost, leaving two-inch stems. Leave them on the ground to cure in the sun, then dry, wash, disinfect, and paint or varnish for fall decorations.

If you're not already doing it, become a composter. My rules are very simple: only uncooked vegetable waste—no fats and no meat—and I add skinny layers of soil between thick layers of green matter.

To order your copy of *Jane Pepper's Garden* by mail, please send payment ($14.95 plus $1.05 sales tax and $3.00 shipping) to Camino Books, PO Box 59026, Phila, PA 19102, Credit card orders - 215-732-2491.

Garden Cleanup

To compost or not to compost, that is the question. Should weeds and plants go into the compost heap? Weeds and their seeds have incredible staying power. They can survive heat, cold, drought, chemicals and time, and they may harbor insects. So as tempting as it is, don't compost weeds that have gone to seed. Bag them up with the trash to be safe.

Now pull up any garden plants that show signs of disease and insect problems. Put them out with the trash too.

Shred or chop the remaining plants into small pieces and add them to the compost pile. In the pile, cover the layers of shredded plants with several inches of soil. Composting is an art or science of its own and many sources explain different methods. Pick a style that suits your needs.

You can leavegarden soil stand bare all winter if you choose, and that may reduce some overwintering insects and disease. But some of us can't stand seeing soil naked and vulnerable. Then you can try covering the garden with old compost or even fallen tree leaves you have gathered, especially good if shredded with a lawn mower. Or till them in to improve the soil.

Brown Bag Lunch Series

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor

Everyone is welcome! Join us for a series of mini lectures, noon - 12:45 pm.
Bring your lunch and learn from the experts while you eat. PHS will provide coffee and tea.
Fee: $3 per person. Reservations required because of limited seating.

Mon., October 20: Forcing Bulbs for Winter Enjoyment
Walt Fisher, Jr., perennial Flower Show winner, demonstrates the basics.

Mon., November 17: City Possibilities
Franklin Shores shares his prize-winning roof-top gardening techniques.

Thurs., December 4: Flowering Holiday Topiaries
Experienced arrangers Sally Humphreys and Carolyn Waite demonstrate clever variations on an easy-to-make floral topiary.

Mon., January 12: Treasures of The McLean Library
Janet Evans and Jane Alling show herbals from the rare books collection.

Wed., January 21: California Dreaming
Christopher Woods of Chanticleer takes us on a whirlwind tour of California gardens.

Tues., February 10: Shady Situations
Beverly Fitts brings ideas for a garden made in the shade.

Reservations: Mail the following coupon to PHS, attn: Linda Davis,
100 N. 20th St., Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. Make check payable to PHS.
For more information: (215) 988-8775, 8776 or 8778.

✂----------✂----------✂----------✂

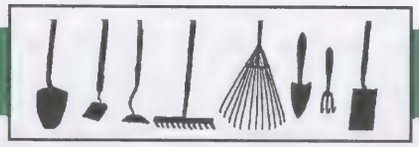
*Name:*_____ *Day Telephone*_____

*Address*_____

_____*# of reservations for (dates)* _____

_____ *Total enclosed*_____

Digging in the Dirt



We should all know that Rena Ennis passed away on June l 1, 1997. Most of us met her when she welcomed new members to Philadelphia Green with her classic "Meet to Eat" speech. Rena said, "Yes we will meet, and yes we will eat," but to know the pulse of the organization we would learn to work as volunteers. As she had and did. As we would and will. In her words, we would get recycled and reused. And Rena epitomized the volunteer ethic of Community Gardening. Philadelphia Green is 23 years old and Rena was there before we were.

She began her commitment to urban greening in 1958 the day after Labor Day at a sewing factory over a chance discussion with her co-worker Alta Felton. Talking about an empty lot on the 1400 block of Taylor Street they decided to make a statement by planting a willow tree. Decades of responsible community involvement began with that tree, and fully grown it still stands. What followed included 4-H Clubs, the "Garden of Eatin' at 25th and Dickinson, gardens at 10th and Diamond, 26th and Reed, 52nd and Pine, The Friends of Black Oak Park, her adopting a class at the Huey Elementary School, and her long association with the Penn State Urban Gardening Program. She was not called in as an Academic to discuss theory, or ideas, but was called in because she knew how to get things done. As she told a new member once, " I've been around for a long time; I don't take no for an answer"!

Shortly after her death her Philadelphia Green friends began asking, "How long was she with us"? We soon realized it was the wrong question. Tirelessly attending functions and start-ups of organizations, block groups, helping school children and finally speaking at and attending city and state hearings. She had *always* been "there." It was not Rena with us, but Philadelphia Green with her!

Her garden approach and advice were simple and consistent, "You start with nothing and make something nice come out of it". Finding a place for a garden was not a problem. And as urban greening organizations all over the country have realized, there is more vacant space than people are aware of. Maintaining the gardens is the issue. In Rena's words, "To get something done you just have to find a way to do it!"

Knowing that volunteering came after one's own responsibilities were dealt with, she shared her optimism but mixed it with reality. In a moment of honest frustration she recently expressed concern about the direction of urban gardening to the Philadelphia Daily News. Vexed that young people were not getting involved she lamented that the time was here to pass the torch, but to whom? That concern is also her legacy, and it is our responsibility. And it is up to us to find ways to pass the dedication and concern along. And like Rena, to do it with humor.

In her passing we have to remember her welcoming speech. With our groups, our activities, and our committees, we will get recycled and reused. This is what our organization is about. And in the neighborhood gardens that she helped put together, little pieces there will always be her pieces. A rescued crabapple tree that she planted, a concrete rabbit that she thought would just add a touch to a space somewhere. She once took part of an abandoned swing set and fashioned it into a trellis for roses. As Alta Felton said, "Rena is gone, but the roses still bloom".

Steve Maurer,
Philadelphia Green Advisory Board

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

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Philadelphia Green News
from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Vol. 19 • No. 7 • July/August 1997

President's Volunteer Summit

by Charlotte Kidd
special to the PG News

As busloads of Presidential Summit volunteers rolled up Germantown Avenue on Sunday, April 27, Philadelphia Green was ready. PG staff and veteran PG volunteers had already worked up a sweat, preparing 19 sites to take full advantage of enthusiastic helping hands.

The Presidents' Summit for America's Future was a call to volunteerism with an emphasis on enriching children's lives. An estimated 5,000 volunteers in colorful t-shirts converged on an 8 1/2 mile stretch of Germantown Avenue to remove graffiti, pick up trash, paint, plant gardens and more.

Many were corporate employees who signed up en masse for the work day; others were neighbors and community agency workers taking advantage of the extra help to enhance ongoing projects.

At the **Boys & Girls Club of Germantown** activity was as varied as the volunteers. Volunteers focused on transforming one corner of a weedy lot into a handsome bed of shrubs and small trees.

Early that sunny morning, PG Advisory Board members **Beverly and Delmer Gill** flexed muscles with PG Community Greening staffers **Mike Groman** and **Eileen Gallagher**. To separate the new raised bed from the club's driveway, the four dug shallow trenches, then eased 10 eight-foot long timbers into place. They hammered rebars alongside to stabilize the timbers at right angle to West Penn Street.

When dozens of Summit volunteers arrived after noon, many grabbed shovels to heave mulch and dig planting holes. Eileen directed others to pile rocks against metal fencing to control weeds.

Summit volunteer **Mike Calembas** from **Allstate Insurance Company**'s Fort Washington office helped prepare a spot for tree planting. "Basically I grew up in Germantown, " he said. "I used to come to this Boys' Club. So I'm giving some back. It's a nice day and everybody is getting a lot accomplished."

Nearby, **Vaughn Gale** of **Allstate** referred to his company's Helping Hands philosophy. "As a resident of Germantown, I have a vested interest in volunteering my time to better my community. I'm also involved in Junior Achievement in community schools, acting as a role model for children. I'm just trying to be all that I can be and helping out as much as I can."

While the Presidents' Summit enticed people from Philadelphia, nearby suburbs and across the country to volunteer, PG staff and volunteers know that continuing effective community involvement and neighborhood outreach are based in the day-to-day nurturing of people, ideas, dreams, and plans.

Back at the Boys & Girls Club, director **Doug Morgan** called the event a success on several levels - from the extensive renovations inside and out to the relationships strengthened or newly established. "Just having people here and getting to know who we are, what we do, having this wonderful work done - it's already a success."

"I'm happy to say that most of what's happening here today doesn't have to end today. The biggest, most important piece in terms of follow-up is that we are establishing really significant relationships that are with us for the long-term."

Volunteers Beverly & Delmer Gill and friend celebrate the President's Summit by building a garden on Germantown Avenue.

Clippings

Garden Tender Workday

Seventy-five gardeners representing 21 groups from around the city came together at the **Greater Philadelphia Food Bank** to build a garden in late May. Participants in this spring's Garden Tenders class used the workday as a learning experience, and became experts in putting up fencing, building raised beds, preparing soil, and planting trees, vegetables and flowers.

The garden, located at **3rd & Berks St**. in east Philadelphia, was designed by **Tanya Stewart** and **Amy Holbrook** of the Food Bank, with help from University of Penn nursing student **Nan Heffernan**, and Penn State Urban Gardening Program Advisor **Sister Maureen O'Hara**. Harvest from the garden will go to the Food Bank and the surrounding community.

Carol & George Ketterer, graduates of last year's Garden Tenders class, brought several additional gardening groups from their **Southwest Community Development Corporation** area to help with the project. "People came to help us, so we've come to give something back."

Funding for Garden Tender projects is provided by the **Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership**.

Azalea Garden Party

The Friends of the Azalea Garden Committee celebrated its annual Azalea Garden Party on Thursday, May 8. Party revenues support the renewal and revitalization of the Azalea Garden, behind the Art Museum on Kelly Drive, including plantings of new shrubs, trees, perennials and groundcover.

More than 2,000 colorful, blooming azaleas and rhododendrons greeted guests as they arrived at the Azalea Garden. Activities for children included balloon art and magic tricks.

The Friends of the Azalea Garden is a volunteer group organized by PHS to prune, plant, nourish and nurture the Azalea Garden year-round, and to raise funds to support the garden's overall annual maintenance.

Rena's Gifts

We celebrate the life of Rena Ennis, gardener, community leader, teacher and friend, who died on Sunday, June 8th. Though we will miss her energy and passion for life, the gifts she shared with so many will keep her close to us.

Hearing the news, Rebecca Melvin tried to find comfort in her garden. Noticing the fig tree that Rena had given her a long time ago, Mrs. Melvin felt consoled by this tender yet hardy plant, a physical reminder of Rena's enduring spirit.

If you care to share stories about how Rena touched your life, write or call Patricia Schrieber at PHS, 100 N. 20th St., 5th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495; 215-988-8841.

Johnson Homes Garden Club

Johnson Homes, a Public Housing Authority Housing Project whose residents have long participated in the Harvest Show, decided that this year their vegetable garden at **26th & Ridge** is going to win the sweepstakes for most award ribbons. Aided by **Linda Dickerson**, Philadelphia Green Field Services Coordinator, the group has formed a Garden Club, with committees to represent each of the major competition categories.

Club members range in age from 6 to 88, and include the entire **Mathur** family, (**Delores, Nickila, Sumati, Zechariah, Deepali** and **Ezekiel**) who are using their gardening experience as part of their home schooling.

Dee Alexander, Ethel Anderson, Fannie Blair, Shirley Harris, Elizabeth Hicks, Verna Walls and **Lorine Woods** also use the club as a learning experience; they're taking trips to other community gardens, to Longwood Gardens, and studying about annuals, perennials, fruits & vegetables, and trees & shrubs. Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden will also be hosting visitors from other gardens, so come out and see how to do things right!

City Hall in Bloom

We celebrated the 6th annual planting of "City Hall in Bloom" with more than 250 Philadelphians who have contributed to the beauty of the city. Volunteers joined **Mayor Rendell** and **F.P. Frog** (the Fairmount Park mascot) to plant more than 6,000 impatiens and vinca in the courtyard and around the outside of City Hall on a sunny morning in late May. Special thanks go to **Huey Elementary School, J.H. Brown Elementary School,** and **Vare Middle School** students, and to **PNC Bank**, which sponsored the project.

Safety in the Garden

Personal Safety

Safety and security are key issues for community gardeners.

- Personal safety is your first concern; do not jeopardize it for vegetables that can be grown again!
- There is safety in numbers. Try not to work alone in the garden. Lock yourself in the garden if possible.
- Ladies, don't carry your purses to the garden. Take a few dollars, your keys and driver's license. Keep valuables in the trunk of your car.
- Know your fellow gardeners! Be aware of people around you.
- Don't look like a victim. Walk and move with authority.
- Report theft, vandalism and license numbers of suspect vehicles to the police.

Here are some things you can do to secure the harvest:

- Locate the garden in an area with high visibility if possible.
- Reward neighbors who watch over your garden by giving them fresh produce and flowers and inviting them to events..
- Notify your councilman/woman and local police of your effort.
- Put a prominent sign in the garden and have all gardeners put their names on their plots.
- Keep the garden weeded and well-tended. Grow flowers to further beautify it. Show the world that the garden is cared for.
- Encourage neighborhood children to participate. Kids who work in the garden are much more likely to care about what happens in it!
- Keep the produce picked. Ripe tomatoes are a temptation to even the most honest people.
- Dust vegetables that are nearly ready with baking flour; thieves may think it's insecticide.
- Have someone tend your garden while you're on vacation.
- Put up a fence or grow a "living fence" of shrub roses.

Pesticide Safety

Before reaching for a pesticide, ask yourself these questions:

- Is the damage bad enough to require spraying? A few holes in leaves or seeing a few bugs are not reason enough to spray.
- Have you tried other methods of controlling the pest, such as handpicking? Can the crop be grown at another time of the year when the pest is not present?
- Have you properly identified the pest? Do you know exactly what you're battling?
- Have you read the label? The fine print? MORE IS NOT **BETTER**!
- Have you chosen the least poisonous chemical available for control? Look for the words "caution," "warning" and "danger" on the label. Caution is found on chemical labels that are least toxic, while those marked with danger are most poisonous.

- Are both the insect and plant to be sprayed listed on the label? If not, the pesticide may not be effective, and technically, you're breaking the law!
- Are the days to wait between spraying and harvest in line with your needs? If you'll be picking beans in three days, but the days to wait after spraying is seven days for your pesticide, you need to consider alternatives.
- Are you going to spray during a calm evening after the honeybees have stopped working? Spray only the infested plants.
- If you're a community gardener, spray only in your own plot, and be sure to alert your neighbors!

- **In listing these precautions, we are in no way endorsing the use of chemical sprays. We are, however, endorsing the use of common sense and common courtesy.**

Philadelphia Green News

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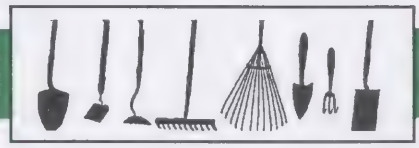
Digging in the Dirt



Guests at this year's Gardeners' Gala Brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show congratulated 12 educators for their winning ways with children.

Since 1986, **Trudy Gay** has worked with her neighbors to clean up Wharton Square Park, now a viable part of the community. Trudy organized an after school program as well as a summer camp, expanded in the past three years to include gardening, environmental awareness, arts and crafts, and health education.

Sam Williams helped establish a tree lab at South Philadelphia High, an intergenerational effort between students and neighborhood seniors.

Norris Square Neighborhood Project's **Iris Brown** and **Tomasita Romero** teach neighborhood youth about their *raices* (roots) by planting gardens with Puerto Rican flavor. Last summer, this duo helped their PhilaJob crew leave a positive mark in Norris Square Park. After the kids participated in a series of workshops, they left behind many beautifully decorated entrance pillars.

Project Rainbow's Gardening Angel, **Sister Diana Cerchio**, gardens with the pre-school set at the Drueding Center, a facility providing transitional housing for women with children. She has transformed a barren concrete courtyard into a lush, safe haven for kids.

Tom Lederer is an institution at Moffet Elementary School where he has inspired teachers and students to become passionate tree protectors in Kensington South. Tom has adopted the Hancock Playground with its after-school program and summer environmental camp.

Kate Loal, alias "Miss Wiz," is Huey School's science teacher and recycling queen. Kate teaches her students the importance of community stewardship with Earth Day and clean-up programs in neighboring Malcolm X Park.

Kevin Santry possesses a magical skill working with children that have trouble fitting in, using gardening to help them feel important. Kevin arranged for his students at Kensington High to care for the school's tree lab along with the local Head Start program.

Larry Stier teaches kids with special needs at Vare Middle School, mainstreaming them with other students through Vare's tree lab. Larry encourages his students to enter the Harvest Show and Junior Flower Show, where they win ribbons, recognition and greater self-esteem.

Tree Tender **Carol Vanagaitis** shares her expertise with Harding Middle School students working in their school's tree lab. A skilled community organizer, she has recruited neighborhood kids to assist with Frankford Clean and Green and the restoration of Whitehall Recreation Center.

Michael Weiss, a science teacher at J.H.Brown Elementary School in Frankford, gets kids hooked on nature, tree planting and care, and hasearned the distinction of being a "Charter Member of Tree Labs".

New Kensington's **Sister Grace West** teaches mini-gardeners from neighboring H.A. Brown School in the "Rainbow Park for Wee Green Thumbs". Her endearing way and nurturing qualities have encouraged Brown School to adopt her program as part of their curriculum.

We are fortunate to have such a circle of teachers inspiring all of us in our work with children.

Flossie Narducci, Special Events Manager

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Art in the Park

by Jeff Tober, Intern
Parks Revitalization Program

This fall marked the beginning of an exciting new program that brought art teachers and students together in nine Philadelphia parks. "Art in the Park" provides an opportunity for aspiring artists ages 9 to 18 to learn painting, drawing, basic landscape design, and other art techniques while gaining a deeper appreciation for their local park. Supplies are provided to the students, and the classes are free of charge.

"Art in the Park" is a collaborative effort undertaken by **Jane Golden** of the **Philadelphia Department of Recreation City Wide Mural Arts Program** and **The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Parks Revitalization Initiative**. Nine local artists are teaching the weekly two-hour art classes to a total of 135 students throughout the city. Weather permitting, the classes took place outside in the parks; churches, schools and community centers have offered space so the classes could be held in inclement weather.

"Art in the Park" started in early September and will end during the week of November the 3rd. For more information about the program, call Jeff Tober at 988-8764.

Art in the Park Teachers

Norris Square - Artist - **Andre Forrest**
Fairhill Square - 4th and Lehigh Ave. Artist - **Deitrich Adonis**
Wharton Square - 23rd and Wharton St.
Artist - **Latresa Copes**
Malcolm X (Formerly Black Oak Park, 52nd and Pine St.)
Artist - **Elbrite Brown**
Carroll Park - 58th and Girard Ave. Near Haverford Ave.
Artist - **Diana Burgess**
Wissinoming Park -off Cheltenham and Frankford Ave.
Artist - **Nyesha Bond**
Elmwood Park - SE Philly off of 71st and Passayunk Ave.
Artist - **Derrick J. Spurill**
Gorgas Park - 6300 and 6400 Block of Ridge Ave.
Artist - **Alvino Pearson**
Vernon Park -off Wayne and Germantown Ave.
Artist - **Nanette Clark**

Garden Tenders planted their garden at **6th & Winton Streets** in Snyderville, using recycled materials to build raised beds and pathways. For more about the Garden Tenders, see *Clippings*.

Clippings

Garden Tenders News

Although 30 people were invited to attend the Summer Garden Tenders workday, more than 100 Garden Tenders trainees and community members turned out to make the workday, the fourth session in the summer course, a tremendous success. Some people planted trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and even some vegetables on the four-house lot at 6th and Winton in the **Snyderville Community Development Corporation** area, while others put up fencing, hung gates, blocked off the street, played music, and barbecued. The host group, who call themselves the "South Philly Clippers," also made tee-shirts and hats for the participants.

South Philly Clippers include**Audrey Tucker, Wilhelmina Spencer, Sharon Payton, Tykeem Williams, Nina Brown, Lawrence Tucker,** and **Vanessa Williams.**

From the Food Bank

Greetings from "The Children's Beautiful Berks Garden" at 3rd & Berks Streets. Special thanks to all the spring Garden Tenders that turned out for our workday in May. The construction of our garden would not have been possible without your help, and because of you the children of our North Philadelphia neighborhood now have an opportunity to learn about healthy living and growing through gardening and nutrition. Currently we have 13 7-to-12-year-olds harvesting and maintaining tomatoes, jalopeno peppers, eggplant, and all kinds of other veggies, which they take home to their families. Along with gardening skills, the kids are also learning nutrition and cooking with help from **Anna Quiles** from Penn State Extension Nutrition Program. So far we have made Sunshine Fruit Salad, minestrone soup and peanut butter cookies.

Feel free to stop by or call anytime to share ideas, or for a look-see.

Tanya Stewart and **Amy Holbrook**
The Greater Philadelphia Food Bank

Youth Garden Grant

The National Gardening Association will award 300 grants nationwide for use during the 1997 growing season. Each grant, worth more than $500, consists of quality tools, seeds, plants and garden products.

Programs involving at least 15 children between the ages of 3-18 years are eligible, with consideration given for educational, social, or environmental programming, sustainability, community support, strong leadership, need and innovation.

To receive an application write:

Garden Grants Dept
National Gardening Association
180 Flynn Ave.
Burlington, VT 05401
OR - call (800) 538-7476.

PLEASE, include the following information: name, school, or organization, address and phone number.

Deadline to apply is NOVEMBER 15, 1997 !!!!!

First Annual PG Bike Tour

Community gardeners **Bill Ehrlich** and **Steve Maurer** brainstormed the idea of a bicycle tour of some of the more famous Philadelphia Green gardens, and put it together with the shortest notice in history.

Bill mapped out the route and on Sunday, August 11th, the group toured the **Garden of Eatin', Warrington Gardens, Aspen Farms,** and **Johnson Homes. Alta Felton, JoAnn Fishburn, Joanne Jackson, Ingrid Montgomery** and the inimitable **Hayward Ford** supplied refreshments at each of the stops.

The day before our group started, people were lost to a bad knee, a bad back, and (we suspect) a good weekend at the shore! And believe it or not, one rider left the Garden of Eatin' to attend a meeting with the Mayor! Still, we persevered, with only one flat tire along the 15-mile trek, and there were quick glances at some wonderful smaller gardens like the John Coltrane Memorial Garden.

Next year there will be more time, more gardens and more people, so stay limber and be ready!

November in the Garden

Extending the Season

By the time you read this column, we've probably already had our FIRST FROST here in Philadelphia, at least on the city's outskirts. And although most people take this as a signal to call it quits in the garden, it's not time to rest just yet. Until the ground is frozen solid, your garden can always use some more tender loving care, and each minute of it this fall is worth hours of reward in the spring.

Most greens, like collards, mustard, lettuce, turnips and spinach can often be kept going until the end of the year, especially if your garden is in a protected area surrounded by heated buildings or walls that hold the sun's heat well after sunset. If it isn't, you can always provide some home-made protection.

Cold frames are just the security many plants need to survive early winter cold snaps. A well built, insulated frame can keep some hardy plants alive and growing all the way into spring.

A simple frame can be constructed from scrap lumber and old window sashes. Build a bottomless and topless box at least 8-12" deep, and sink it partway into the soil around your low-growing greens. Use the windowsash as a lid. If possible, slant the whole arrangement toward the south, to get more sunlight.

Remove or crack the lid during sunny days, since the insides can bake in the 100° temperatures that occur without ventilation. Keep plants watered but not wet.

Cold frames are also an excellent place to store **bulbs for forcing** during their cold treatment period. Make sure you buy large bulbs marked "for forcing" or "exhibition size." Pot them up in potting soil with a little bone meal and sink them into the soil in the frame. Water them well, then cover the pots with at least 8-12" of leaves or woodchips. Put the lid back on the frame and go away until February. The bulbs need 12-15 weeks of cold to establish their root systems properly and begin to grow. At that point you can remove a few pots every week and start them growing indoors for that early spring pick-me-up we all so badly need by then. We'll remind you in the spring when it's time to get the bulb rolling. **SPECIAL NOTE:** paperwhite narcissus do not need a cold treatment before being forced.

Green Tomatoes

NOW ABOUT THOSE GREEN TOMATOES. Take them off the plants and save only the perfect ones. Wash them , adding a tablespoon of chlorine bleach to a gallon of water, and put them somewhere in the dark, where the temperature holds steady at about 40° (an unheated cellar or attic is fine.) Some people prefer to wrap each one in tissue paper or newspaper, and others add a ripe apple to the basket of tomatoes to promote ripening. With either technique, check them every week or so and remove any that have begun to rot, since these are a bad influence on the others. Burpee Longkeeper variety tomatoes have been known to last into January and still taste better than store-bought.

Saving Summer Bulbs

Once the flowering season is over, let's pay a little attention to winter care of summer-flowering bulbs. It's certainly cheaper to invest some time storing them over the winter than it is to buy new ones each spring!

In Philadelphia, most of these bulbs are not winter hardy, although cannas, gladiolus and dahlias *have* been known to come back after a *mild* winter. This means that most summer bulbs must be dug up and stored each fall as frost approaches. The time to dig them up is when the foliage has thoroughly withered or has been browned by frost.

Summer-flowering bulbs like gladiolas & dahlias are easily stored in plastic bags, with enough dry peat moss, vermiculite or perlite to separate them. Fold the top of the bag, but don't seal it. Keep it in a cool, dry place that stays about 55° to 60°.

Bulbs like dahlias and cannas need to be kept cooler than that—40° to 45° to prevent them from sprouting. Put them in peat moss or vermiculite in a plastic bag in a box to keep them dark, and store them against a cool basement wall.

Digging in the Dirt

At the 1997 Renaissance Harvest show, garlands hung over the arches, grape stomping and meade making classes exemplified the renaissance theme. A visitor with a parrot on her shoulder and a traveling banjo player, with his impromptu sing-alongs, mouth harp and thigh-slapping beat showed us yet again that celebrating the fall seaon is something we've all come to enjoy. And as always, PHS volunteers offered tremendous help, making sure everything fit together perfectly!

The pumpkins, white squash, farm animals, colored eggplant, and cider-- all signs of real home-grown bounty -- are memories now, but like our precious urban soil we turn them over once more for another season.

Harvey's bees, his local honey, his "Bee Beard," and the Butterfly Gardening lectures reminded us that everything we do in gardening is part of one big system. Who could have taken anything from among the bounty of discussions? Talk of african violets mixed in with talk about native plants inspired by Bartram's Gardens, and pet frogs with fellow water gardeners. A herb topiary fooled us into thinking it was a bonsai! Young people painted pumpkins or had a pumpkin race! Ethnic breads captured one prize, and word is that some visitors have already purchased the yeast so they can start baking the recipes that were given out!

The season is over, the growing has stopped, but all living things go on -- like PHS, like Philly Green, and like the members and communities that our Harvest Show brings together each year.

by Steve Maurer,
Philadelphia Green Advisory Board

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

November 1997

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
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November 1997

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 19 • No. 10 • December 1997

New 5-Year Rule Changes Status of City's Urban Gardening Agreement

Many of Philadelphia's community gardens are located on city-owned land. Generally, when gardeners request permission to use these lots, the city issues an "Urban Gardening Agreement". This contract extends the courtesy of permission-to-use as well as notification-in-advance should the city require the property for other uses. In the past, this agreement could be extended for many years, provided the gardeners renewed the agreement each year.

In the last few years, however, the city has changed its guidelines. Permission can now only be granted for a five-year period. At the end of this term, the community group is expected to either make arrangements to acquire the land or discontinue using it so the City can sell it. So far more than 200 of our community gardens hold Urban Gardening Agreements and can be affected by this change in policy.

What can your group do about this?

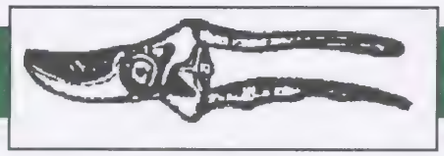
- **If your garden is on privately-owned land, you need no Urban Gardening Agreement**. However, you should still have some kind of permission from the owner, either written or verbal.
- **Is your garden on land owned by the City?** It's very important to know who owns your garden.
- **Find out if your garden has an Urban Gardening Agreement.** Even if you have never signed the contract, find out if someone before you did, and when. If someone signed it when the garden first started, there's a chance that your allotted permission is about to run out. And even if you skipped a year of gardening or renewing your agreement, the time is still counted from the initial signing.
- **If you think your garden will be affected by these new rules, start planning now**. Fortunately, help is available to figure out what plan best fits your garden's and your neighborhood's needs.
- **Call the Neighborhood Gardens Association at 988-8797**.

Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust (NGA), a group formed to permanently preserve gardens around the city, recently received a grant from **The William Penn Foundation** to assist gardens affected by these new rules. NGA's plan is to work with these properties, to help gardeners make decisions about the future of their gardens.

What are the Options?

- Everyone can stop gardening (WRONG ANSWER!!!)
- **The garden group** or a local community organization (CDC, church or other local non-profit) can take title to the land, and the group can continue to garden.
- **Individual gardeners** can take over ownership through the City's Sideyard Program, and the group or individuals can continue to garden..
- **NGA** can take title to the community garden where no other ownership options are available, and the group can continue to garden. This has already worked on more than 20 sites around the city, with the properties permanently preserved as garden space.

If you know that your garden is affected by this change in policy, or you are uncertain of your group's status, call the **Neighborhood Gardens Association** at 988-8797 to discuss your options.



Clippings

Hello & Goodbye

Special welcome to **Lauri Brunton**, who will be editing the Philadelphia Green News starting with the January issue. **Sally McCabe**, who with mixed regret and relief is leaving the publication after ten years, will be spending her new-found free-time working with her pet project, the Garden Tenders. She will continue to contribute to future PG News issues by writing a horticultural column.

Office Closings

All PHS offices will be closed from December 24th through January 1.

Back Yard Fruit Growers

While attending the Seed Savers meetings at Penn State last month (see back page article, *Digging in the Dirt*) we met a dedicated group of volunteers from York County called the **Back Yard Fruit Growers**. These folks spend their weekends preserving valuable antique varieties of fruit, especially apples, which are rapidly disappearing from the market.

For membership information, contact Don Ziegler, BYFG, 817 High St., Akron, PA 17501-1417

717-859-3615 evenings & weekends.

donzig@redrose.net.

Watch your PG News for notice of a spring pruning & grafting field trip on March 21st, sponsored by PHS, BYFG and the Landis Valley Museum.

Friends of the Wissahickon Needs Volunteers

The **Friends of the Wissahickon** group is looking for volunteers with an interest in horticulture, gardening and native plants to help remove invasive vines from Philadelphia's Wissahickon Park area. Invasive vines kill mature trees and shade out saplings, reducing plant diversity. The next vine clearing is Saturday, January 24th, from 10:00 am until noon. Saws and loppers are provided. The work is strenuous, but it's fun, and when you're done you can count the trees you've saved.

For information call the Friends of the Wissahickon at 215-247-0417.

Special Thanks

Thanks to the following retiring Philadelphia Green Advisory Board members for their years of dedicated service. We look forward to their continued involvement with Philadelphia Green: **Carmen Delgado, JoAnn Fishburn, Jim LaRosa, Patsy McLaughlin,** and **Lily Yeh.**

Get Soil Requests in Early

PG gardens requesting soil deliveries for the spring should put in their orders early, according to PG City-wide Project Manager Eileen Gallagher, who will be coordinating the effort on a first-come, first-served basis. Soil dumps could begin as soon as the first week of March.

Call Eileen at 988-8880 to place your order. Please leave your name, phone, address, and the exact address of where the soil is to be dumped.

Free Plant Physiology Classes at PHS

PHS and the **Wagner Free Institute of Science** will co-sponsor a 12-week course called *Plant Physiology for Gardeners* from January through April 1998. The course, taught by Professor John Porter of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Sciences, will be held at PHS on Monday evenings, 7-9 PM, from January 26 through April 20 (with no class during Flower Show week).

This course is designed for gardeners, plant enthusiasts, and students of biology who wish to expand their knowledge about plants, the requirements for successful growth, and the biological bases of those requirements. Topics will include soils and soil minerals, photosynthesis, nitrogen metabolism, and symbiosis.

The course is free but requires registration. Call the Wagner Free Institute at 215-763-6529, extension 21. Leave your name, address and phone, and indicate that you are registering for the Plant Physiology course. Let them know if you' re a PHS member or a community gardener.

The McLean Library at PHS will be open until 6:45 before the Monday evening sessions.

Free Penn State Winter Workshop Series at Horticultural Center

January 17 **Fine Food and Choice Gardeners -- Peppers with Gus Jardel**
Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series.
Learn techniques for planting and cooking from your food garden.

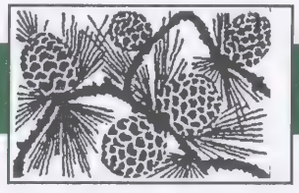
24 **The Gardener's Year --Planning for all the Seasons**
Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series.
Tips on planning for the best garden ever!.

31 **Herbs in the Landscape**
Guest Speaker is Jeannine Vannais, Historic Herbalist at Pennsbury Manor
Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series.

February 7 **For a Healthy Soil**
Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series.

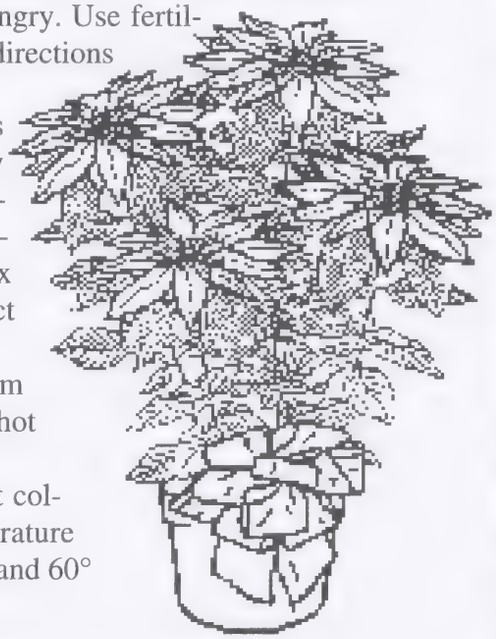
Penn State's Winter Workshop Series events are FREE, and are held at the Fairmount Park Horticultural Center, Belmont & Montgomery Avenues in the West Park. Attend and receive a free copy of their 20th Anniversary Book, *Fine Food and Choice Gardeners.* Registration is at 9:00 AM; workshops are from 9:30-11:30AM. For more information, call the GardenPhone at 471-2224.

Holiday Horticulture



Directions from the Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch

- Select plants with green foliage all the way down to the soil line. This is a good indication that the plants have active, healthy roots.
- Look for plants that have small green buttons (cyanthia) in the center of the colored bracts. These buttons will eventually develop into little yellow flowers.
- When transporting the plants home, make sure they are protected from temperatures below 50°F. Chilling causes the leaves to drop.
- Place plants in a room where there is sufficient natural light to read fine print. You should be able to observe a strong shadow with your hand.
- Water plants thoroughly when you get them home. The entire soil area should be saturated so that water seeps through the drain hole. Remember to discard excess water—never allow poinsettias to sit in water.
- Check plants daily—water when soil feels dry to the touch.
- Fertilize plants soon after bringing them home. They are without nutrients through the whole marketing process and will be pretty hungry. Use fertilizer according to the directions on the label.
- If you keep curtains drawn during the day to conserve heat, remember that poinsettias need at least six hours of bright indirect light daily.
- Keep plants away from drafts, radiators and hot air registers.
- To prolong the bright colors, keep the temperature below 72° in the day and 60° at night.



Philadelphia Green News

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December 1997

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Digging in the Dirt

My reasons for attending the regional seed saving conference (official title: "Preserving Crop Biodiversity and Saving Seeds in the Northeast") at Penn State University with fellow community gardener **Blanche Epps** were as diverse as the subject: to find sources of Pennsylvania German seeds (my own heritage); to learn proper seed saving techniques; to swap my own saved seeds for others I haven't tried yet; and to make contacts who could help me save an antique apple orchard near the community garden I run in Mont Clare, PA.

The conference exceeded all my expectations. The exhibits were breathtaking -- more types of apples, beans and potatoes than I ever thought possible -- and unlike the generic displays one sees in national seed catalogs, ALL of these varieties would grow/mature in my garden!

The keynote address was by Kent Whealy, founder Seed Savers Exchange, and featured slides of some of the newly-discovered heirloom vegetables brought from the former Soviet Union. These included many varieties of tomatoes, pepper, potatoes and greens never seen in the United States.

Once I had copies of every handout/regional seed catalog and could sit down, I found that the workshops were just as astonishing in breadth and depth -- my copy of "Seed to Seed" (the bible of seed saving instruction) has all sorts of new notations in the margins. But the highlight for me was having lunch at the "Fruit Varieties: Old and New" subject table where I met members of the **Back Yard Fruit Growers**, a Lancaster, PA-based group of fruit enthusiasts and the **North American Fruit Explorers**, a national group that encourages members to discover and propagate local, often overlooked, fruit varieties. Not only did these folks give me some excellent leads and resources on how to save the antique apple orchard, but they inspired me to attend a grafting seminar next spring and become a "fruit explorer" myself.

As excellent as the workshops were , if I could only choose one event to impress upon others the importance of preserving heirloom vegetables and saving seeds, I would have taken these folks to the meals. Yes, the meals! Lunch and dinner at this conference were NOT your typical hotel fare: attending growers donated the finest vegetables, fruits and meats of their region. We dined on traditional Native American corn soups, roasted potatoes in hues of blue, yellow and red, and an amazing pilaf of rice, black barley and daikon radish seed. If you couldn't attend this conference, I sincerely hope that you always eat as well and as varied a menu as we did during these two days in State College. Both your health -- and the planet's -- will be richer as a result.

At the close of the conference, we were asked not to keep all the wonderful information we had learned on seed saving and heirloom varieties to ourselves! So, if you would like more information about the catalogs, organizations and/or seeds I discovered at the conference, please e-mail me at <garlicgr@pond.com> or contact me at the church address below.

Dorene Pasekoff, Coordinator
St. John's Organic Community Garden
A mission of St. John's United Church of Christ,
315 Gay Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 20 • No. 1 • January/February 1998

Victory at 18th and Glenwood: NGA

Success Keeps a 13-Year Old, Much- Loved Community Garden in Gardeners' Hands For Good

"Oh yes, we have plans: We're gonna get some lights, air conditioning, and maybe some knicknacks for the old caboose that sits near the railroad tracks in our garden. We'd like to have a new watering system with rubber hoses instead of the plastic pipes we've had for years. Then we're gonna have a big party next fall. "

Jimmie Taylor, along with the 87 other gardeners at the four acre **Glenwood Green Acres,** located along the Amtrak rail line near the North Philadelphia station, has reason to plan. It's the first time in quite a while that they're certain their garden will be there in the spring.

Back in 1996, a bright orange Sheriff's Sale notice had appeared on the garden. The sign was a great shock to the gardeners who had gardened there for 13 years. "We were all very upset", said Jimmy, "I got in touch with **Claire Power,** executive director at the **Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA),** for help."

From that moment on, NGA, whose mission is to help community gardeners who risk losing their gardens, dedicated itself to saving **Glenwood Green Acres**.

Power attended Sheriff Sales for months before the property finally came up for bid in October. Said Claire, "The biggest risk would be if NGA was outbid, then someone else would leave the sale owning the garden."

When the auctioneer announced the sale price starting at $25,000, Claire stood up. Moments later, the property was theirs. Claire couldn't wait to tell Jimmie the news: "After signing some paper work to finalize the deal, I called him from a pay phone outside. I was thrilled. The gardeners had been in such turmoil for months, they didn't even have their annual fall barbecue last year for the first time in 13 years".

Thankfully, no one will miss the fall feast next year. Jimmie is already planning to roast a 110 lb. pig, and and hire a D.J. to celebrate the day.

In the meantime, the gardeners can watch their fruit trees bloom this spring and dream about the many plantings to come.

For assistance with land ownership for your garden, please call NGA: (215) 988-8799

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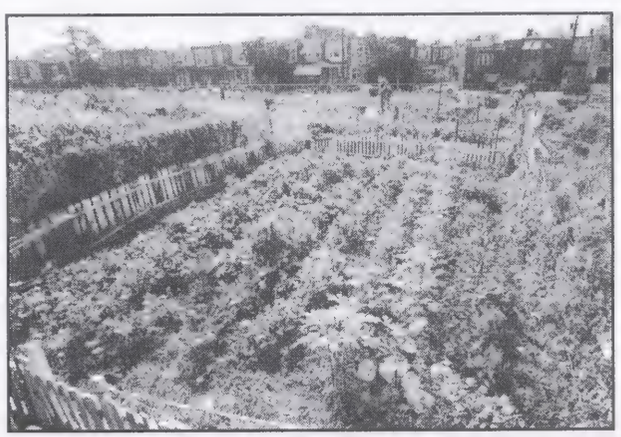
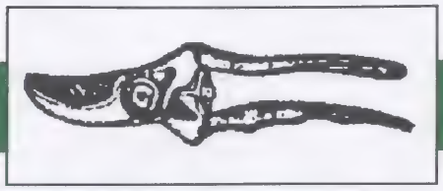


Glenwood Green Acres in North Philadelphia has close to 100 plots; 87 people have gardened there for 13 years. The Garden is now owned by NGA and gardeners will continue its cultivation for years to come.



Clippings

Gardening Nation

What's happening ?

In **Seattle, Washington**, Cheri Singer and Anne Jacobs, long-time gardening friends, began **Samorina Greens**, a small home-grown gardening business growing and selling salad greens to Seattle restaurants.

Because they wanted to be more involved with their community, they contacted **Transitional Resources,** a nonprofit community mental health center in Seattle, to ask that their patients join in this unique horticultural venture.

Their goal was to build a self-supporting community-based enterprise linking horticulture therapy, small-scale farming, and business skills development. Their business and partnerships have been flourishing since.

Thanks to *Northwest Gardening News* for this Gardening Nation news summary.

Hot Off the Presses -

Two New Books Highlight Philadelphia Green Efforts

Urban Parks and Open Spaces, just published by the Urban Land Institute (URI), highlights Philadelphia Green's revitalization work in parks throughout the city. To order a copy, call URI at 1-800-321-5011. Cost: $39.95

Patricia Schrieber, outreach manager at PHS, was asked to contribute a chapter to the recently published text book *Horticultural Therapy.* Her chapter focuses on healing neighborhoods with community gardening. **Sun Circle Garden**, and the **Norris Square Neighborhood Project** are among her examples. Cost: $79.95

Both books are available for browsing at The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Library, 100 North 20th Street, Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Green News Announces New Editor

Beginning with this issue, **Lauri Brunton**, Publications Associate at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and editor of PHS *News,* the Society's newsletter, will edit the PG News. Her work at PHS began in 1994 as a volunteer for Philadelphia Green's Parks program. Contact her at PHS: phone: (215) 988-8768, e-mail: lbrunton@pennhort.org

Sally McCabe, former PG News editor, will continue to contribute to PG News by writing a seasonal horticulture column each issue.

We are also introducing a new column, **Gardening Nation,** to keep you informed about what's happening in community gardening around the country. Please look for it on this page.

PG News will now be published nine times per year with combined issues in winter and summer. Here are publication dates: January/ February; March; April; May; June; July/August; September; October; November/December.

• **The Philadelphia Green Annual Report** for fiscal 96-97 is now available. If you would like a copy, please call **John Gannon** (215) 988-8809.

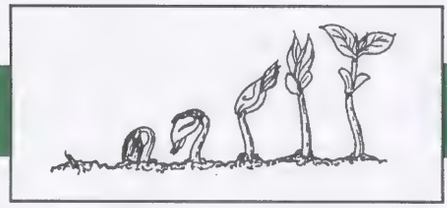
• **Winter's chill can chase us** out of the garden and into the warmth of indoors. For a fun winter activity, staff from Philadelphia Green can schedule an indoor tree care slide show in your neighborhood. Call **Dawn Johns**, (215) 988-8845.

We Welcome 1998 Philadelphia Green Advisory Board Members

The PG Board meets three times each year to discuss Philadelphia Green efforts and offer feedback about Philadelphia Green programs. Nominees for the 1998 Philadelphia Green Advisory Board were elected to the board for three years beginning in January, 1998:

John Boyce: president of the Friends of Gorgas Park.
Edward J. Crompton: active member of his community, responsible for securing street trees for his block.
Alfreda Mason: garden tender who has served as a mentor to many new Garden Tenders participants.
Carla Puppin: president of the Bel Arbor tree farm community group and an active member of the Kimble Street Garden.
Stephen Pyne: active member of the Warrington Community Garden and has also worked with Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders.
John Steptoe: participated in the original Tree Steward Program.
Grover Willis: community gardener who served on the first ever PG advisory Board.
Jacquie Winslow: president of the Logan Square Neighborhood Assoc.

Coming Up



In the Garden

by Sally McCabe

Winterizing your outdoor plants

To prepare all woody plants for winter, especially evergreens, make sure the soil has a reserve supply of moisture.

Research shows that they survive winter's cold, drying winds better if given more moisture at their roots. Winter-kill is caused more by lack of moisture in the plants than by freezing temperatures.

- Water plants thoroughly before the first hard freeze.
- A layer of mulch (4 - 6") will keep the ground from freezing too deeply and protect the roots.
- Plants may be wrapped with burlap (loosely) to allow air movement. No plastic.
- Move plants in containers close to the house to provide some protection from the wind.
- When the ground is not completely frozen, you can water your plants well to replenish water lost from drying winds.
- Clear "heavy" snow off shrubs gently.
- Deicing salts can damage plant roots, causing brown leaves. Wash or sweep the salt away from trees and containers.

Words of Wisdom for Ordering From Catalogs

SHOP AROUND. Not all catalogs are equal. Compare prices in different catalogs. Some catalogs may have lower prices for some items but higher prices for others.

ORDER WITH A FRIEND. Small gardens might not have enough room for a full pack of seeds of each variety. Why not share an order? Bulk orders are usually cheaper, and preparing a group order means you can get a greater variety of seeds for the same amount of money per person.

NEVER READ A CATALOG ON AN EMPTY STOMACH. The hungrier you are when you see those luscious tomatoes, the more money you're liable to spend!

SAVE YOUR EMPTY SEED PACKETS. These will come in handy next year when you're trying to remember which bean it was that did so well. And remembering the variety names will also be worth extra points when you enter your bounty in the Harvest Show in September.

1998 Gardeners Gala Brunch at the Flower Show

Sunday, March 8, 11:30am - 2:00pm

Community gardeners are invited to attend a tasty brunch in the Ballroom at the Pennsylvania Convention Center on Sunday, March 8.

The brunch is a wonderful opportunity to see the Flower Show, purchase discounted garden wares in the Show's Marketplace, and to visit with 600-800 other Philadelphia Community Gardeners.

Tickets: $25.00. Cost includes brunch and Flower Show admittance. Call **Flossie Narducci,** (215) 988-8897**,** to reserve a ticket.

Penn State's Urban Gardening Program

Winter Workshop Series, 1998

The free workshops listed below will be held at the Horticultural Center at Belmont & Montgomery Avenues in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pa.

Receive Penn State's new book *Fine Food and Choice Gardeners* free when you attend the workshops. Registration begins at 9:00am; workshop begins at 9:30am - 11:30am.

For more information, call Penn State Urban Gardening, (215) 471-2224.

January

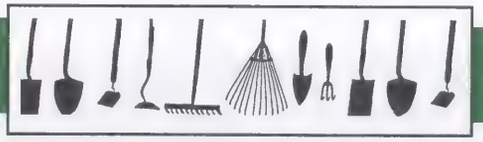
1/17 - **Peppers**: *Fine Food and Choice Gardeners* guest speaker Gus Jardel, and other book participants

1/24 - **The Gardener's Year-Planning for all the Seasons**: Maureen O'Hara, Garden Advisor with the Penn State Urban Gardening Program:

1/31 **- Herbs in the Landscape**: with guest speaker Jeannine Vannais, Historic Herbalist at Pennsbury Manor.

February

2/7 - **For a Healthy Soil:** with guest speaker Charles Young, Garden Advisor with the Penn State Urban Gardening Program.



New "Adopt-A-Tree" Program Grows Roots At Carroll Park

by Jeff Tober, Parks Intern

This past fall, the **Friends of Carroll Park** and Community members **Madaline Dunn** and **Lilli Gorham** decided it was time to plant new trees in Carroll Park*, in West Philadelphia. They wanted to see young trees planted that would eventually replace the mature trees already growing there. Young trees, however, need special care, especially in times of drought.

Marcy BonDurant and **Jeff Tober,** from Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Initiative, made appointments with five classes at nearby **Bluford Elementary School**. They explained to students the importance of trees to human health and the environment and told them the conditions necessary for trees to live: soil, air, sun, water and care. They asked each class if they would like to adopt a new tree for Carroll Park. All five classes responded with an enthusiastic yes.

To learn how to properly care for their tree, each student was given a homework assignment to bring a plastic bottle with a lid to school. The following week, Friends of Carroll Park **Rasheed Story**, **Mr.** and **Mrs. Dunn**, **Bertha Parker**, **Lucille Jennings**, **Theresa Pigford**, and **Pat Randall**, executive director for Carroll Park Community Council, and staff from PHS, met the students at the park to teach them about their specific adopted trees. All 150 Bluford students brought their bottles: old soda containers, milk jugs, and even a two and a half gallon water cooler container! They poured their water into drip buckets to slowly saturate the soil.

Afterwards, each class was presented with a photo of their tree and a certificate. Students will continue to water the trees as needed and will receive follow-up presentations from PHS staffers including Marcella Nixon and Jackie Wright. In the spring, classes will chart when their tree buds, provide mulch, plant flowers and have a picnic lunch with their tree.

*Carroll Park is one of the six new parks selected by the Philadelphia Green Parks Revitalization Program last May.

Edited by Lauri Brunton
Printed on Recycled Paper

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from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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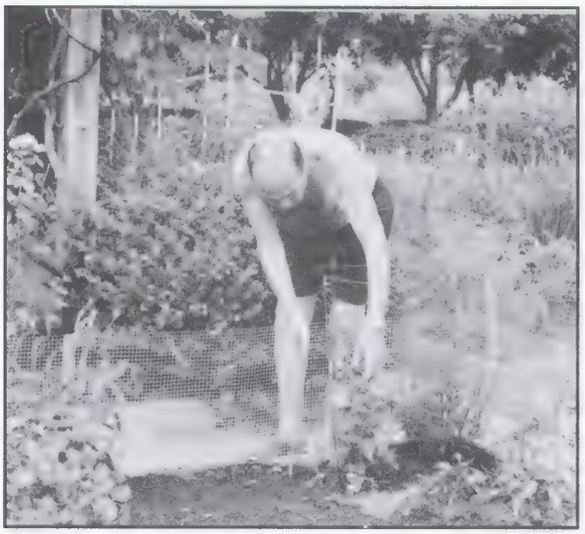

Gardeners at the Schuylkill River Community Garden, on 25th and Spruce Street, gathered their produce for pick- up by Urban Roots each Saturday last summer. The produce was used to prepare fresh meals for MANNA participants. Gardeners from 22 other local gardens also shared their bounty last summer with MANNA.

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Urban Roots, A Volunteer's Vision Helps Supply Fresh Vegetables & Fruits for Meals to MANNA

by Maris Wadleigh Curran

I devoted last summer to realizing a personal vision: to unite Philadelphia community gardens with MANNA (Metropolitan AIDS Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance), the Delaware Valley's meal program for the homebound with AIDS.

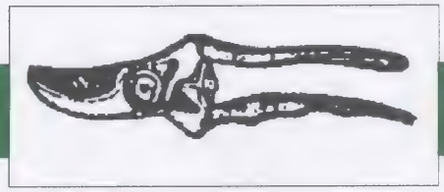
This notion of a union between MANNA and Philadelphia gardens evolved from an idea I had while volunteering in MANNA's kitchen last January. As I helped unload food from the dumbwaiter, I was told that several boxes of the vegetables were from the Graterford State Prison's organic garden. It dawned upon me then that if MANNA received the majority of its produce from community gardens and organic farms, it could reroute money being spent on food, and gain a larger volunteer base. I proposed this idea to MANNA staff. In May, they accepted my proposal. My work with them began the day after school let out.

To meet the needs for more than 1,200 meals prepared and delivered daily, I convinced people from 22 local gardens to direct a share of their bounty to MANNA's kitchen. I spent early summer mornings mastering the art of writing the business letter, fundraising and calling all organizations with any relationship to the words: green, vegetable, or plant. Staff from Philadelphia Green met with me, providing contact names for several community gardens, support for my project, and even a hand harvesting some vegetables.

As the summer progressed and the fruits of our labor streamed in, most of my early mornings and late afternoons were spent preparing, maintaining, and harvesting produce from community gardens within a seven-mile radius of MANNA.

As I cultivated tomatoes, plucked beans and pruned basil, I learned of the strength and generosity present in each of the community gardens, and those who gardened there. While immersed in garden culture, my daily reading shifted from world news and literature to books on

(Continued on page 5)



Clippings

Gardening Nation
What's happening?

In **Baltimore, Maryland, The Loading Dock,** (TLD), a nonprofit building materials recycling center, has rescued at least 33,000 tons of building material intended for landfills since it began in 1984.

By storing old building material, often considered trash, in their 21,000 square foot warehouse, TLD can then redistribute the materials at a low cost to low-income families.

They've developed partnerships with nonprofit housing groups, environmental organizations, local governments, building contractors, manufacturers and distributors. In 1996, TLD won *The Presidential Award for Sustainable Development*, and the *United Nations Habitat II "Building Communities of Opportunity"* National Excellence Awards. **For more information, or to order their How-To book, please call (410) 728-3625.**

Green Scene Magazine Highlights Philadelphia Green Youth Education Programs

The March issue of *Green Scene*, the full color horticultural magazine produced by the Pennsylvania Horticulutral Society, includes an article about Philadelphia Green's Adopt-a-School, and Adopt-a-Tree programs, *Finding the Heart in the Wood*. To receive a copy of the magazine or to inquire about subscriptions, please call the PHS's Publications department, (215) 988-8769.

Philadelphia Green Awarded Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund Grant

What makes a park thrive? What are good funding strategies to maintain its health in communities? What role do public agencies, volunteer groups, and neighbors play in their development?

"In the nineties, parks need to welcome people in a new way" says Maitreyi Roy, community greening program manager.

The **Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund** grant gives PHS the chance to look at the health of parks in their entirety and to take off in new directions to shape parks for people in the nineties and beyond.

Philadelphia Green will have the opportunity to apply for an implementation grant grant based on this process in late 1998.

Have you Renewed Your Water Hydrant Permit?

You should have received a letter and hydrant renewal form from Philadelphia Green in your February mail. If you didn't, please call **Sonia Castro, (215) 988-8889** at **PHS**, who will set things right.

New this Year: For gardeners who have a compression cap lock (CCL) on their hydrant, the Philadelphia Water Department has begun a pilot program to allow you access to the hydrant. If you would like to enroll in the CCL program, please call **Sonia Castro (215)988-8889** as soon as possible.

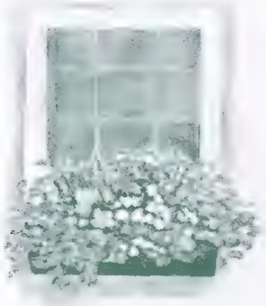
Hooray for Citizen Action! Streets Department to Help Clear Trash in Philadelphia Parks

The Philadelphia Department of Recreation has traditionally collected trash at its own park sites throughout the city. Because of a lack of equipment, however, they have been unable to keep up with the overflowing trash cans for some time.

So, when a Steering Committee for Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Initiative formed last fall to address the needs of the nine Philadelphia parks, the first issue they tackled was trash. They saw that across the street from these parks, the Philadelphia Streets Department collected trash from homes. Unfazed by the knowledge that previous efforts to resolve the trash problem had failed, the Committee went to work.

They wrote to the Mayor and various council people including Happy Fernandez, Michael Nutter, Richard Mariano, James Kenney, and Department of Recreation commissioner DiBerardinis,with their concerns and suggested that a solution might be for the Streets Department to help the Department of Recreation clear trash in Philadelphia parks.

The result: an agreement between the Department of Recreation and the Streets Department to clear trash at 12 Philadelphia Parks, including those in the Initiative. The first battle in what has been dubbed "the Trash War" by volunteers, has been won by the persistence of the Steering Committee.



PHS's 1998 Philadelphia Flower Show
La Passion du Jardin

Make It A Day at the 1998 Show

Welcome to PHS's 1998 Flower Show, **presenting sponsor PNC Bank**. Please use this sheet as a reference; you can slip it in your pocket for easy access while at the Show.

• Visitors arriving at the Pennsylvania Convention Center by train will be able to enter through the beautifully renovated and recently opened Headhouse. The Headhouse links the Convention Center to Market Street, Market East station, and the Gallery shopping complex. Visitors will ascend via escalator from the train platform to the Grand Hall of the Convention Center. Ticket sales and collection will also be handled in this area.

• **New Saturday & Sunday Hours.** On both Sundays, the Show will open at 8:00am for those early risers wishing to avoid the crowds; it will close at 6:00pm. On Saturday, March 7, the Show will open at 8:00am and close at 9:30pm.

• **Where Can I Grab a Bite?** Aramark serves a delicious assortment of hot or cold food at a variety of stands and restaurants. The Food Court is in the Grand Hall on Show level; there is also food on the third level adjacent to the Show entrance.

• **New Re-Entry Policy.** Same-day re-entry is permitted if hand is stamped before leaving Show level. To stamp hand, please go to the Show level, west end of the concourse, outside of C Hall. **You can re-enter only via the escalator at 13th and Arch Street.**

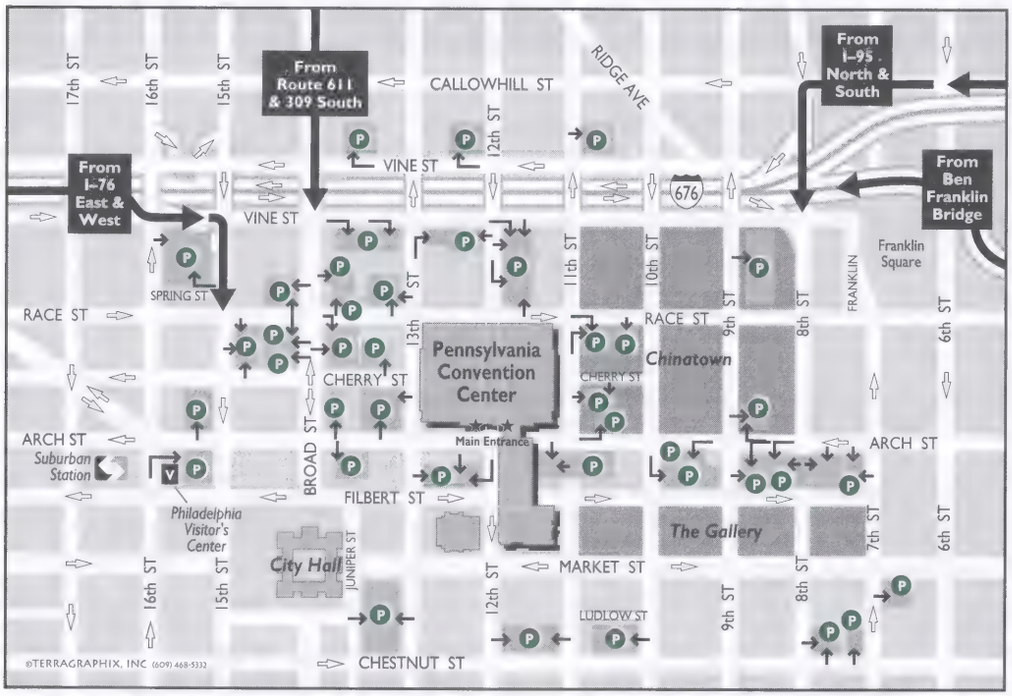
• **Transportation.** Traveling via public transportation to the PCC is easy. Call SEPTA for special offers ans schedules. If you do choose to drive, however, free rides on the Flower Show shuttle trolley will carry you from stops convenient to most lots. (See map below for shuttle hours and locations).

• **I'm Lost!** Lost persons should report to PNC Bank Park in the southeast corner of the Exhibit Hall.

Citywide Celebrations & Flower Show Week

Flower Show Week is blooming with over 80 restaurants, museums, galleries, shops and hotels that will hold spring-themed special events and floral displays. When you arrive at the Flower Show, be sure to pick up a coupon book for special Flower Show week offers.

Catch a free ride to **Downey's Restaurant** near Philadelphia's famous South Street shopping area to enjoy floral wines and lunch. Tour the historic **Bellevue Hotel** to learn about the French Renaissance architecture, then enjoy flower pastry treats at **Ciboulette Restaurant**. Taste floral flavored beer at **McGillens Old Ale House** or learn the art of carving flower-sculpture garnishes at **Joseph Poon Restaurant.** For a free coupon book listing all Flower Show Week events and special offers, please call (215) 988-8899.



P is for parking lot... ***Free rides on The Flower Show Shuttle trolley will carry visitors from stops convenient to most lots.****. The Shuttle runs every day of the Show: Members Preview Saturday 2/28, First Shuttle: 6:15am; Last shuttle loop: 4:45pm. Monday3/2 - Friday 3/6, First shuttle: 6:15am; Last shuttle loop: 10:45pm. Sunday 3/1, Saturday, 3/ 7, Sunday 3/ 8: First shuttle: 5:30aam; Last shuttle loop: 10:45pm.*

Telephone Numbers

General 1998 Flower Show Information:	(215) 988-8899
SEPTA: fares/schedules	(215) 580-7800 (See Reverse)
PHLASH: fares/schedules	(215) 4-PHLASH
AMTRAK:	(800) USA-RAIL
USAir:	(800) 334-8644
Philadelphia Visitor Info:	(800) 611-5960
Accommodations Express (hotel packages):	

RIDE SEPTA TO THE 1998

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Bouquet Pass, unlimited rides.

SEPTA is proud to be ideally situated to provide comfortable, convenient service to thousands of Show-goers, whether they arrive by regional rail, subway, bus or trolley. So, when planning your trip to the 1998 Flower Show, think SEPTA and remember:

- Every SEPTA railroad train stops at Market East Station, a short walk from the Convention Center
- Market-Frankford Line trains stop at 11th Street, and Routes 10, 11, 13, 34 and 36 trolleys are just a block away at 13th Street Station
- Broad Street Line subway trains connect at nearby City Hall Station
- Seniors ride buses, trolleys and subways free during off-peak hours and all day Saturday and Sunday. The railroad off-peak fare is $1 for seniors (free for those carrying PACE or ACCESS Cards)
- Free parking on weekends at all rail stations. Inexpensive parking is available at SEPTA stations on weekdays
- For special transportation needs, call SEPTA ParaTransit carriers for reservations: (215) 580-7145

Discounted, advance SEPTA Bouquet Passes and Flower Show tickets will be sold at SEPTA railroad stations and sales offices. The Bouquet Pass includes unlimited riding on all SEPTA vehicles and may be purchased in combination with discount Flower Show tickets. For further information, call SEPTA at (215) 580-7800, daily.

Produced by:
1827 THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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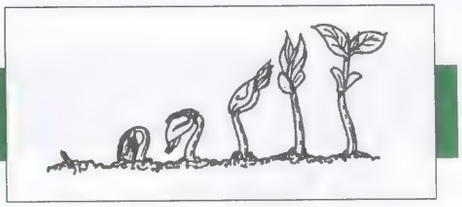
"At Your Service."

Coming Up in Spring



March

Sunday - Sunday ..... March 1 - 8 ..... Philadelphia Flower Show

April

Thursday ..... April 2 ..... How to Prepare for the Junior Flower Show
3:30 - 5:30pm. PHS auditorium. 100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor, Phila., PA. **Free.** For more information, please call Dawn Johns, (215) 988-8845.

Sunday ..... April 19 ..... Bike Ride of Philadelphia's Historic Trees
12:00pm. **Helmets required.** Ride begins at Philadelphia Waterworks on Kelly Drive (Behind the Philadelphia Museum of Art). **Free.** For more information, please call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Tuesday ..... April 21 ..... Lecture: Soil, Seeds, & Glorious Gardens
6:00pm, Lecture given by **Art Wolk** at PHS auditorium. 100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor, Phila., PA. Fee: $13 Please call Sally Kutyla, (215) 988-8775.

Saturday ..... April 25 ..... Philadelphia Green Spring Garden Sale
See column on this page for details.

May

Friday ..... May 1 ..... Last Frost (Average for Philadelphia)
See Horticulture in March, page 4 this issue, for March plantings.

Wed., Sat., Wed. ..... May 6, 9,13 ..... Three Part Workshop: Tree Tenders Training for Teachers, PHS auditorium. 100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor, Phila., PA. **Free.** To apply, please call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Thursday ..... May 14 ..... Lecture: Stresses on Urban Trees
7:00pm, Borders Book Shop, 8701 Germantown Ave, Chestnut Hill. **Free.**

Wed. & Thurs. ..... May 20 - 21 ..... Junior Flower Show
Held at Memorial Hall in West Fairmount Park, For more information, or to register, please call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897.

June

Wednesday ..... June 10 .. Registration Deadline: **City Gardens Contest**

Wednesday ..... June 10 ..... "Get Ready, Get Set, Grow" Part I of a two part series on Growing for the Harvest Show
6:00 - 7:30pm, at "The Spring Garden", 18th and Wallace, Phila., PA. **Free.** Date for Part II, TBA. For more information, please call Linda Davis, (215) 988-8776.

Be on the lookout for more events and workshops in future PG News calenders!

Philadelphia Green Spring Garden Sale

Mark your calenders for Saturday April 25! Philadelphia Green's annual spring garden sale will be held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. At this event you'll be able to purchase annual and vegetable plants at discount prices. **You can take advantage of low prices only if your group pre-orders**. Other plants such as perennials, herbs and trees will be on sale, but will be limited in quantity and not offered at the discount price.

Send your order form with check or money order (no cash) payable to PHS, PG Garden Sale, PHS, P.O. Box 7780-1839, Phila., PA 19182-1642. If you haven't received your order form, please call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897.

Save the Date - Regional Urban Greening Forum To Be Held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center Friday, November 6, 1998

With funding provided by the Pew Charitable Trusts, PHS is coordinating an all day event dedicated to urban greening in cities and suburbs. Topics will include: food production in urban areas; trees in urban areas; town squares & parks; corridors, main streets, & gateways; youth programs, and more. Projects in Philadelphia, Trenton and Wilmington will be highlighted.

To receive a brochure or if you have suggestions for the day, contact **Patricia Schrieber** at PHS, **(215) 988-8841**.

Horticulture in March

In the Garden

by Sally McCabe

Did you grow collards last year? Did you leave them in the ground all winter because you just didn't get around to cleaning up after the hard freeze turned most of your garden to mush?

Take heart. In spite of what they looked like all winter, spring will bring a rush of growth to last year's collards, broccoli, mustard, and turnip plants. These tender spring shoots are tasty and very nutritious, as well as plentiful.

Many cole crops (cabbage family) are biennial. This means that they don't form their flowers and seeds until the second season. And it's these new flower shoots that start sprouting from old plants around the beginning of March.

Pick shoots every day, since they'll flower and become inedible by the second day. Serve them raw in salads or steamed lightly, until dark green, to preserve the vitamins and minerals that make these early vegetables such a good spring tonic.

•

Now that the days are getting longer, houseplants will begin to come out of their winter hibernation and start putting forth active growth. Help them along by fertilizing with a 1/4 solution of instant plant food (Peter's or Miracle Gro are ideal). To get the right strength, mix up enough for a quart, put in a gallon jug, and top off with water. For best results, use water that's been sitting out overnight, since the chlorine will have evaporated.

•

What to Plant in early to late March:

Seeds	Put Out Transplants
• carrots	• broccoli
• beets	• cabbage
• leeks	• cauliflower
• lettuce	• celery
• onion sets	• chives
• peas	• collards
• radishes	• leeks
• spinach	• parsley
• turnips	

Prepare Your Soil . . .

When you build a house, you need to put in a strong foundation; when you get ready for a long hike, you need to make sure you have good shoes. When you start a garden, the most important place to begin is with a good rich soil.

First, clear the planting bed of any rubble or boulders that may have worked their way to the surface during the winter. Don't remove the layer of dead leaves and grasses that blanket the soil, since they'll be the first meal of the season for earthworms once you turn this organic matter in.

With a pointed shovel or fork, dig down to a depth of the shovel head. This will be practically impossible the first year, but will get easier with each passing season. Digging this deep breaks up clay chunks and puts the dead leaves and grasses down where they can be useful to plants and worms. When finished, the garden should look like the surface of the moon, crater after crater. Exposing the subsoil in this manner allows the sun and warm spring air to take the chill off the cold soil. The warmer temperatures also help to make the soil creatures more active and ambitious.

Second, improve the texture and quality of your soil. If digging to a depth of 8 inches is only possible by using dynamite, adding a few inches of organic matter is the answer. Peat moss, compost or mushroom soil will increase the soil's water-holding capacity and make soil easier to work. These additions will also break down over time to provide food for plants.

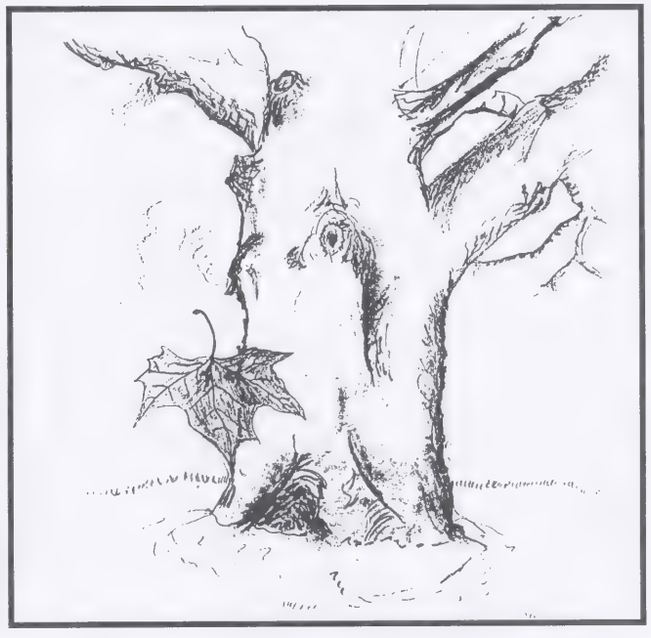
Add nutrients to the soil now. Bloodmeal and bonemeal are organic fertilizers that provide the nitrogen and potassium needed for root and leaf growth. Rock phosphate is a good source of phosphorus, necessary for flower and fruit production. Add a few coffee cans full of each over the garden. Chemical garden fertilizers like 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 can also be used now; be sure to read the directions first.

After spreading all of these things over the planting bed, rake or hoe it to break up the large clumps, and to mix together the ingredients. Smooth out the surface, then let nature take its course.

Drawing by Britt Dahlberg, 14 yrs.

Cultivating Kids

Philadelphia Green's Art in the Park Program to Resume this Spring



Drawing by Britt Dahlberg, 14 yrs.

"I like working outside in the Park, then you can really draw what you see around you. I drew what the Park was to me." Britt Dahlberg, who attends the Julia R. Masterman School in Roxborough, Philadelphia, also attended the Art in the Park Program in Gorgas Park last fall. She'll get a chance to keep drawing at Gorgas Park when art classes resume this spring.

Gather Your Paints & Brushes . . .

The Philadelphia Department of Recreation's **Mural Arts Program** and **Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Initiative** will co-sponsor the second season of **"Art in the Park"** this spring. The art program meets weekly for eight weeks in nine Philadelphia parks: Norris Square; Fairhill Sqare; Wharton Square; Malcolm X Memorial Park; Carroll Park; Wissinoming Park; Elmwood Park; Gorgas Park; and Vernon Park. Each of these parks participates in the Parks Revitalization Initiative funded by **The William Penn Foundation.**

Philadelphia artists from the Mural Arts Program will teach sketching, painting, and basic landscape drawing to children ages nine and older. Themes for the various art projects will focus on the parks' landscape and activities.

The spring program will begin the week of April 5th and run for eight weeks. Class length: 2 hours. Class limit: 15 students. All classes are free. For more information about this program or to have a registration form mailed to you, please call **Jeff Tober**, **215-988-8764.**

Urban Roots

(Continued from page 1)

botany and how-to garden manuals. I learned about vegetable growth and agriculture in a cityscape. I gardened with young and old gardeners, gaining fresh perspectives on life while creating lasting friendships.

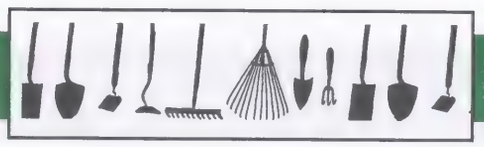
Last summer's pilot for MANNA's gardening program proved successful. Local gardeners affected the lives of their neighbors with AIDS by donating fresh herbs and vegetables, thus reducing MANNA's kitchen costs. If you or your community garden would like to participate in *Urban Roots* at MANNA this summer and early fall, call **MANNA, (215) 496-2662**. You can leave a message for **Maris Wadleigh Curran**, or ask to speak with **John Green**.

Maris Wadleigh Curran, 17 years old, is a senior at Friends Select School. She lives in Center City Philadelphia and has interests in both social service and writing. This is her first contribution to *Philadelphia Green News*.

Youth Gardening Grants Available

The National Gardening Association is pleased to announce that applications for its annual Youth Garden Grants Program are available. NGA, a member-supported non-profit organization based in Burlington, Vermont, will award 300 grants nationwide for use during the 1999 growing season. Each grant, worth more than $750, consists of quality tools, seeds, plants and garden products.

Programs involving at least 15 children between the ages of 3-18 years are eligible. To receive an application, visit our worldwide website at http://www.garden.org or call -800-538-7476. By mail write to: Garden Grants Dept. PS, National Gardening Association, 180 Flynn Ave., Burlington, VT 05401. Please include the following information: name, school or organization, address and phone number. **Deadline for completed applications is November 15th. 1998.**



Help Us to Learn about the Next Generation of Gardeners

Who are the next generation of gardeners: What are their interests? What kinds of programs and publications will they be looking for? What kinds of information sources do we need to make available to meet their needs?

Over the past year, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has begun a series of discussions, part of our Strategic Plan, to bring the Society with its many programs into the 21st century.

As Philadelphia Green (PG) participants, your knowledge of gardeners and gardening can help provide us with answers to some of these questions. Because our PG mailing records do not reveal ages, I am asking all of you to join us in figuring out that next generation of gardeners. We plan to conduct a series of focus groups and possibly a survey.

If you are 40 or under, please let us know if you would be willing to participate in a survey or a focus group by getting in touch with Paula Holland at PHS: Phone, 215-988-8817; FAX, 215-988-8810; or e-mail, pholland@pennhort.org.

If you are, like me, no longer able to convince friends you are younger than 41, but know of a gardener or potential gardener who would like to work with us to find out how PHS can best serve its members in the next century, please also get in touch with Paula to let her know the person's name, probable age, address and phone/fax numbers.

I hope we have many happy years of gardening with all of you ahead, but I know you will want to join with me in making sure we line up the next generation of gardeners for Philadelphia Green assistance. Thanks for helping us.

Jane G. Pepper

Jane G. Pepper
President, PHS

Edited by Lauri Brunton
Printed on Recycled Paper

March 1998

Special Philadelphia Flower Show insert inside . . .

March 1998

Philadelphia Green News
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215-988-8800

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Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 20 • No. 3 • April 1998

Sea Change Changes - *With a Little Help from the Community Design Collaborative*

"Sea Change gave us their wish list; we showed them what was feasible on their lot architecturally. Together, we came up with a compromise between the two," said **Jan Strouse**, a Philadelphia Community Design Collaborative architect who worked on the original block design for the **Sea Change Program** in 1994.

Four years ago, Sea Change, a nonprofit environmental and business training program for urban residents, received a grant to purchase a central office building adjacent to a vacant lot in North Philadelphia.

Their goal, to create small businesses on the abandoned land -- an urban tree farm, a vegetable garden and farmer's market, an outdoor cafe -- would help community residents achieve economic independence in their low-income neighborhood.To begin, they needed the expertise of outside organizations to learn how to best use their new space.

The Community Design Collaborative produced a feasibility study, which included an assessment of the block's existing conditions; design ideas and schematic design drawings; cost estimates; and a horticultural opportunities analysis. Then PHS's Philadelphia Green helped Sea Change install the project.

Four years later, Sea Change is flourishing: "When our urban tree farm was first developed in 1994, we had almost 300 trees for sale; now we're down to 50. In March, 1997, we became a certified tree nursery by the state of Pennsylvania." said a proud **Rosalind Johnson**, president of Sea Change.

"Our vegetable garden also became certified by **Pennsylvania Certified Organic** last March. We've sold our vegetables to the White Dog Cafe in West Philadelphia and Tequila's, a Mexican restaurant on 15th and Locust.

"We've employed at least 60 kids from the community each season to work in our vegetable garden and tree farm", continued Johnson. "Our relationship with the Community Design Collaborative and Philadelphia Green has created a working relationship focused on urban agriculture in the City's vacant, open spaces."

What is the Community Design Collaborative?

Founded by the **Young Architect's Forum of Eastern Pennsylvania's Committee on Social Responsibility** and the **Social Action Committee of American Institute of Architects (AIA) Philadelphia** in 1992, the Collaborative is a volunteer organization of design professionals dedicated to providing free preliminary architecture, planning and design services to non-profit organizations. More than 300 architects, landscape architects,

(Continued on page 2)

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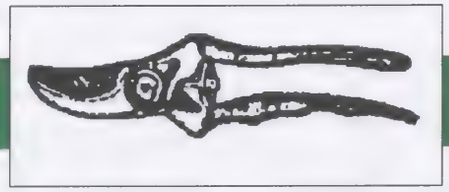
Philadelphia Green Community Gardeners' Plant Sale Saturday, April 25

See page 3 for information about ordering.

No orders will be accepted after April 9.

This sale is a service to Philadelphia Green gardeners and is not open to the public.



Clippings

Collaborative *(cont. from page one)*

engineers, preservationists, contractors, cost estimators, and interior and graphic designers carry out the mission of the Collaborative giving clients access to a wealth of expertise and talent, and an array of technical services that they otherwise might not be able to afford.

"Since we first met with Blaine Bonham in 1993 to discuss opportunities for working together, collaborating with Philadelphia Green has been great. It helps us target our resources, and it has introduced us to an array of groups." said **Susan Frankel**, Community Design Collaborative Program director. Since its founding six years ago, the Collaborative has worked with more than 150 non-profit, community-based organizations throughout Philadelphia.

Gardening Nation
What's happening?

In **Cleveland, Ohio,** inmates at Grafton Correctional Institute (GCI) grow vegetables for the local food bank and flowers for the local parks.

Rick Hallock, deputy warden at the facility, says the inmates really enjoy the work they are doing. Cultivating vegetables, flowers and trees is a wonderful way for them to contribute to their community, while connecting them with the earth, soil and new life.

Thanks to Common Ground, published by the Ohio State University Extension in Cuyahoga County for this Gardening Nation brief.

Free Seeds Awarded to Community Groups for Price of Postage

Yes, it's true; the good things in life can still be had for free! For a **free seeds application**, contact:

America the Beautiful Fund
219 Shoreham Building
Washington D.C. 20005

"Parks in Print" to Debut in April PG News

Learn about workshops, events, grants, and dedicated volunteers in **"Parks in Print,"** a new *PG News* page about the nine Philadelphia Parks in Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Initiative to begin in April. If you've got park stories, please contact program manager **Marcy BonDurant, (215) 988-8887**.

In the Garden

by Sally McCabe

Save Your Leftover Seeds

Many of us with small gardens really don't have enough room to plant a whole pack of seeds. After all, how many tomato or pepper seedlings can you stuff into a 10' x10' space?

Here are a few suggestions for how to deal with what's left in the pack after the first spring planting:

Trade half-full seed packs with other gardeners. Or plan ahead and agree before you buy them to split a particular envelope of seeds.

Do succession planting: plant a row of something like lettuce now, another in two weeks, another in four weeks, etc. You'll constantly have a new crop coming up while the last one is maturing. This way, you can put your whole pack to good use.

Keep leftover seeds in an airtight container until next year. Tupperware and coffee cans with lids are ideal. Moisture destroys seeds. Keep leftovers dry by putting an inch of dessicant in the bottom of your airtight container. A dessicant is a material that draws moisture out of the air. A high tech example is silica gel, available from most florists and garden centers for drying flowers. Low tech, and cheaper, is powdered milk.

The second leading killer of seeds is heat. The best temperature for storing seeds is 35-40 F. That's the temperature inside your refrigerator. The worst place to keep seeds is in the trunk of your car, where sunny day temperatures can often reach 150F.

Mice can also be a problem when storing seeds. Remember that a mouse won't go after something it can't smell, so stick to the airtight containers.

Coming Up in Spring

Philadelphia Green Community Gardeners' Plant Sale

Mark your calender for Saturday April 25! Philadelphia Green's annual spring garden sale will be held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. At this event you'll be able to purchase annual and vegetable plants at discount prices. **You can take advantage of low prices only if your group pre-orders**. Other plants such as perennials, herbs and trees will be for sale in limited quantities will be offered at regular prices.

Send your order form with check or money order (no cash) payable to PHS. Mail to PG Garden Sale. PHS, P.O. Box 7780-1839, Phila., PA 19182-1642. Order forms were mailed in mid-March. If you haven't received yours, please call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897.

April

How to Prepare for the Junior Flower Show ..... Thursday, April 2, 3:30 - 5:30pm
PHS auditorium. 100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor, Phila., PA. **Free.** Contact Dawn Johns, (215) 988-8845.

Plants to Share ..... Wednesday, March 11, 10:30am
Las Parcelas Garden, 2257 N. 2nd Street, Phila., PA Sponsored by Penn State Urban Gardening Program.

Lecture: Soil, Seeds, & Glorious Gardens ..... Tuesday , April 21, 6:00pm
Lecture given by **Art Wolk,** past Flower Show Grand Sweepstakes winner, at PHS auditorium. 100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor, Phila., PA. **Fee: $13.** Please call Sally Kutyla, (215) 988-8775.

Philadelphia Green Spring Garden Sale ..... Saturday, April 25
See box on this page for details.

May

Mini Bus Trip to 59th Annual Herb Sale, Historic Yellow Springs ..... Monday, May 4
Bus Departs 8:00am from 4601 Market Street. **You must preregister. Fee: $5.** Call the Penn State Urban Gardening Program: (215) 471-2224.

Junior Flower Show ..... Wed. & Thurs , May 20 - 21
Held at Memorial Hall in West Fairmount Park, For more information call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897.

June

Registration Deadline: City Gardens Contest .....Wednesday, June 10

"Get Ready, Get Set, Grow" .....Wednesday, June 10, 6:00 - 7:30pm
Part I of a two part series on Growing for the Harvest Show at "The Spring Garden", 18th and Wallace, Phila., PA. **Free.** Date for Part II to be announced. Please call Linda Davis, (215) 988-8776.

Be sure to check out the Spring Highlights calender, printed on page 3 of the *Treebune* (enclosed with this issue of PG News), for tree related workshops and activities. The *Treebune* is printed quarterly as a supplement to the PG News.

Receive FREE SEEDS for 1998 Harvest Show Challenge Classes

For a Challenge class, all participants grow their entries in a container from the same variety of seeds. In addition to quality, size and condition, the entries in this class are judged according to how typical they are to a variety standard. Participants should bring their specimens to the Harvest Show on either Thursday, September 17, or Friday,September 18, by 10:00am.

The 1998 selections are:

Nasturtium 'Whirleybird'

Upward facing blossoms held well above the vigorous, deep green leaves. Stems are nearly vertical and petals radiate outward, horizontally. Jewel-like dwarfs in a rich palette of colors. Very early blooming; performs well in hanging baskets.

Culinary Herbs - Savory 'Summer'

Aromatic tops for seasoning vegetables and meats; 18".

Eggplant 'Bambino Hybrid'

The miniature, almost bite-size, one-inch fruits are a lovely, deep purple with a delicate flavor. Use them for grilling, in salads, even whole for shish-kebab.

Tear and return

I would like to enter the 1998 Harvest Show Challenge Class. Please send me these seeds:

____ Nasturtium 'Whirleybird'
____ Culinary Herbs 'Savory, Summer'
____ Eggplant 'Bambino Hybrid'

Name_____
Address_____ Zip_____

Return to Diane Humphries, CHALLENGE CLASS, 100 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

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Vol. 20 • No. 4 • May 1998

450 Trees Will Be Planted in Port Richmond, Neighbors Play a Crucial Role in Successful Plantings

"My voice mail box has been full for weeks" said **Deborah Hall**, PHS project manager. "Port Richmond residents have been calling for applications for the Port Richmond street tree program almost non-stop." **Mike Groman**, Community Greening manager added that planting these 450 trees in Port Richmond shows how a crisis can be turned into something positive."

After years of industrial environmental abuse,the **Pennsylvania Environmental Council**, the **Port Richmond Business Association**, and a coalition of community leaders from **East Torresdale, Glen Ford, Tacony, Bridesburg and Greenwich** came together to direct money from a legal settlement to the tree planting program.*

The trees will be planted by **Philadelphia Green's** neighborhood greening team. Said **Nicholas Cassizzi**, president of the **Port Richmond Business Association**, "We are particularly excited about the tree plantings since they will help to filter out some of the pollutants from the air of our community."

Because most of the trees will be planted on a block by block basis, neighbors in the community are an essential part of the project. Once the trees have been planted, homeowners on the block will be responsible for keeping the trees healthy.

How to Get Trees

If you live from Richmond Street to Frankford Avenue and from Castor Avenue to Lehigh, you're block is eligible to receive a tree. Please call Debbie, (215) 988-8877 for an application for the fall planting.

Once you complete an application, PG will send surveyors to the blocks to survey the street and mark the pavement where the trees will be planted. A minimum of six and a maximum of 10-12 trees, such as crabapple and maples, will be planted on each block. Philadelphia Green will give you hoses and special watering buckets to help tend trees. We will also have workshops to teach you and your neighbors how to care for the trees.

* This tree planting project was undertaken in connection with a settlement of an enforcement action taken by the United States Environmental Protection Agency against Conrail for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act.

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Gardener Creates Hats from Beer Cans ..... p. 8

We Bid Farewell to Laura Sims

We were saddened to learn that **Laura Sims** passed away in March. Laura had served on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and as chair of the PG Brunch at the Flower Show. Her block, the 6100 block of Washington Street, was a yearly winner in the City Gardens Contest.

We offer our condolences to her family and friends.

Clippings

Aspen Farms Mural To Be Completed This June

Twelve years ago, green rolling hills, a barn and some horses were painted onto the three story building wall alongside **Aspen Farms** where **Hayward Ford** has gardened for 15 years. Before painters could complete the mural, however, money to buy needed painting supplies ran out. As part of Philadelphia Green's **Keystone Gardens Program**,* money is made available to maintain longtime community gardens. Philadelphia Green has given Aspen Farms funds to finally finish their longstanding mural; people, animals and sky will be added to the original farm/country scene. Graduates from the **Academy of Fine Arts** and **Jane Golden**, director of the Mural Arts Program, will complete the mural by June 30th. We can't wait to see it!

*Other PG Keystone Gardens include Las Parcelas (see story on this page), Glenwood Green Acres, Sun Circle, The Village of the Arts, and 25th Street Gardens.

Call This New Phone Number

If you would like to request a soil delivery, ask about a new project, or to learn who your current project coordinator is, please call (215) 988-8862.

If you have a question about an existing Philadelphia Green project, please call your current project coordinator.

African Masks, Vegetables, Stories and Painted Benches Help Teach Puerto Rican Heritage at Las Parcelas

Iris Brown uses the **Las Parcelas** community garden (on the 2200 block of Palethorp), to teach Puerto Rican history to students from elementary and junior high schools nearby. "Puerto Ricans are 1/3 African, 1/3 Tiano Indian, and 1/3 European", says Iris. "We want to teach the children about their African side."

Iris' brother **Raul Brown**, helped create the "African village" in Las Parcelas by carving three large masks from wood he got at Fairmount Park's recycling center; some stand as tall as four feet. Local teenagers also created nine other African masks last summer. Benches have been painted in reds, browns and oranges in the African tradition. Iris and other gardeners are planning to grow African vegetables and other plants this spring and summer.

Free Seeds for Groups

For a **free seeds application**, contact:

America the Beautiful Fund
219 Shoreham Building
Washington D.C. 20005

Gardening Nation - City Gardening Ideas Exchange

In Houston, Texas, elementary and middle school kids are learning how to grow and sell food to city residents and restaurants. **Urban Harvest**, a nonprofit community gardening program, has won a grant from the **USDA Community Foods Project Program** to train city kids how to plant and grow vegetables, then how to market their produce to the public.

Said **Wendy Kelsey**, associate director of Urban Harvest, "We hope through this program youth will gain knowledge and experience in gardening, nutrition and marketing as well as job and personal skills that will benefit them in their everyday lives and future careers."

Thanks to Urban Harvest Guide and Wendy Kelsey, associate director of Urban Harvest, for this Gardening Nation Brief.

Family of Garden Tenders Builds Gate on Wheels

Richard Pyatt, a former cement worker, used his skills to build cement pathways and a cement gate on rollers for the community garden he and his family began at 15th street between Wharton and Reed. The gate on wheels can be rolled aside, allowing a truck to drive all the way into the garden to deliver soil.

Richard, with his wife **Anna Mae,** daughter **Lorie**, son-in-law **Arthur Miles**, and sister in-law **Flossie Hines**, took the Garden Tenders training last spring. Together, they enlisted the help of neighbors and kids to create their unique vegetable garden.

In the Garden

by Sally McCabe

Now that the Flower Show has ended and life is starting to return to normal here at PHS, we can officially begin the spring season. I polled several members of the Outreach Department at PHS's Philadelphia Green Program, and learned that on the whole we learned a lot by attending the Lectures & Demostrations Series and the Gardeners' Studios at the Flower Show. Here are a few tips we picked up:

Clematis: If it blooms before June, leave it alone. In other words, if your vine blooms before June, DON'T prune it in the spring. If it blooms after June, prune it to the ground each spring.

Hostas: There are enough different varieties of leaf and flower size, shape, color and growth habit that you could build a whole garden with nothing else and still have constant color. Although they are tough plants, they do prefer filtered light and not the dense shade we were raised to believe.

Cut flowers: When you bring home cut roses, re-cut the stems under water. This is because the stem immediately sucks in air when cut; air bubbles in the neck of the stem cause the flower head to droop. If yours are already drooping by the time you get them home, put the whole stem, flower and all, in the bathtub or sink in warm (**not hot**) water overnight. The stems, leaves and flowers will soak up water and the stem will become firm again.

Strip the leaves from the stem, since moisture transpiring from the leaves robs from the flowers. Flowers on stripped stems last several days longer than the controls. Philadelphia Green staffer Mindy Maslin tried this at home and it really worked.

Once you have flowers in a vase, add a small amount of bleach (less than a capful) to the water. This inhibits the growth of bacteria and algae which clogs up the stems so they can't take up water.

New terminology in cut flowers: We all heard the variety name *roadsidea* used with abandon by this year's florists at the Show. This means that the flower you're buying in an arrangement is identical to the one that grows by the side of the road! This didn't surprise us though, since we'd heard hints of it several years ago when we realized that the beautiful yellow *solidago* being used as a filler in flower arrangements was indeed our old friend "Goldenrod".

May 1st is the official Last Frost Date here in the city. And no matter how mild the winters have become, the average last frost date still remains the same as it has been for more than a hundred years. The best date to plant warm season crops (plants that won't survive a frost) is after Mother's Day, or around May 10th. This gives the soil a chance to warm up bit, so planting won't be such a shock to seeds and transplants. (Of course last year we had a ridiculously warm late winter, but once May and tomato-planting season arrived, it turned cold and rainy, especially on weekends, so it wasn't safe to plant tomatoes until almost the 4th of July!)

Here's what should be okay to plant after May 1:

Plant seeds:
annual flowers
beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots

Plant transplants:
broccoli
cabbage
collards
cauliflower
tomatoes
sweet potatoes

Wait for June:
peppers
lima beans
eggplants
okra

Junior Flower Show - *Springtime in Paris*

The Junior Flower Show offers youngsters from across the Greater Philadelphia Region an opportunity to experience the thrill of growing plants and demonstrating their talents at Memorial Hall. For details, call Flossie Narducci (215)988-8897. The Show is open to the public:
Tuesday, May 19, 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Wednesday, May 20, 9:30am - 5:00pm
Thursday, May 21, 9:30am - 5:00pm.

Artistic Classes

1. **Grand Prix** - A small arrangement of fresh and/or dried plant material. Must include a small toy car. Must not exceed 6" in any direction. Open to all age divisions.

2. **Bon Apetit** - A fresh flower table-arrangement incorporating flowers and/or fruits and vegetables. Accessories permitted. Open to 7th through 12th grades and special education classes.

3. **Three Musketeers - Crafty Creatures** - A cluster of three creatures made from dried plant material only, seed pods, etc. Must be 3-dimensional and freestanding. The cluster must not exceed 12" in height or width. Open to all age divisions.

4. **Designs by Cartier** - Any type of jewelry made from or with seeds, beans and dried material. (No Pasta) Open to 7th grade through 12th grade and special education classes.

5. **Champagne** - A grapevine wreath decorated with dried plant material. Must be equipped to be hung and not to exceed 12" in diameter. Open to 3rd through 12th grades and special education classes.

6. **Mardi Gras Mask** - A full face mask decorated with natural materials such as dried flowers, weeds, seeds, etc. No silk or plastic flowers. Open to and including 6th graders and special education classes.

7. **Hunchback of Notre Dame** - A scarecrow dressed as any character from the story. Must be freestanding and at least 24" tall. Open to all age divisions.

8. **The Impressionists - Pressed Plant Design** - Create an impressionistic style painting using pressed flowers and or foliage to make the design. Not to exceed 8 1/2" X 11". Open to 7th through 12th grades and special education classes.

9. **French Poodle** - A vegetable block print design in the shape of a dog, using cut vegetables as the printing tool. Not to exceed 8 1/2" X 11". All grades welcome.

10. **Haute Couture** - A hat or headware decorated with natural materials. No silk or plastic flowers. Accessories permitted. Open to all age divisions.

To Enter Show

Registration

- Registration takes place Monday, May 18 from 11:00am - 6:00pm.

Entry Rules: Artistic Classes

- Check age division eligibility before entering artistic classes. (See class listings on this page)

- Each exhibitor will be permitted to exhibit only one entry in each artistic/horticultural class.

- Each artistic class is limited to a total of 10 entries from each group or classroom.

Horticultural Classes

- All plants must have been grown by the exhibitor, except in artistic classes. All plants must have been cared for by the exhibitor for at least two months before Show and have been grown in exhibit container prior to Show.

- An exhibitor may have more than one entry in a horticultural class if plants are of different varieties.

- Artificial plants not permitted. Accessories permitted where specified.

- **Please bring only the number of entries allowed under each horticultural class.** Check your booklet.

Vernon Park Wins $50,000 Grant from William Penn Foundation

*by **John P. Sgrillo**, chair, Friends of Vernon Park*

It's the first day of spring and it's raining heavily at Vernon Park. But through the downpour, the park's future looks brighter than ever. At last, we can do something about the flood of water filling the park's antique drains, overflowing into gutters, and rushing dirt-laden across sidewalks into the over-burdened gutters of Germantown Avenue. At last we can address the back-up drainage problems in Vernon House. And, we can finally build our long dreamt of fence along Germantown Avenue.

We have become the first of the nine parks under the umbrella of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to be given a grant directly from the **William Penn Foundation**. The $50,000 grant, administered by the **YMCA of Germantown** over a two year period, will go a long way toward the rehabilitation of Vernon Park. The grant was the crowning achievement after a year of extensive reorganization; **Friends of Vernon Park** is now more than ever a community-based organization.

We thank: The **YMCA of Germantown**; the **Center in the Park**; **the Central Germantown Council**; the **YWCA**; **Family Center of Pickett School**; and **First Presbytarian Church**. We must also thank the individuals representing these organizations: **George French**; **Jean Holland**; **Ruth Salters**; **Anita Hamilton**; **Cheryl Frazier**; **James Igess**; **Ron Brown; Joyce Brown**; **Lyn Thompson Gibson**; **Kitten Davis**; **Artis Ray**; **Rennie Cohen**; **John Lafley**; **Dave Simpson**; **Tim Smigelski**; **Leroi Simmons; Steven Vaughan**.

What a pleasure it will be to put out bids for storm sewer replacements and sewer grates, to clean existing stormwater inlets, etc; such things were a mystery to us just last year. Who would have thought that we could find so much satisfaction in learning what a sanitary sewer lateral cleanout was and to look forward to its installation! Thank you William Penn for this opportunity. We sincerely hope to live up to your expectations.

Important Phone Numbers

For maintenance requests at your park, please call your District Caretaker Supervisor:

District 4: 215. 685-2234
District 6: 215. 592-6019
District 7: 215. 537-3574
District 8: 215. 685-1547
District 9: 215. 685-2699

Training Session: *Attracting Media interest to your Park*

June 3, 6:00-7:30pm

Don't miss this session designed to help you attract newspapers, magazines and other media to your park. The session will be held at PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia. **Pizza at 5:30. Free.** For more information, please call **Jeff Tober, (215) 988-8764.**

Come on Out ! May Park Events Calender

Norris Square Park
Event: Glad Bag-a-thon (Clean-Up)
Date & Time: May 2: 10am - 5pm
Location: Norris Square Park
Contact: Rafael Feliciano, (215) 238-1434
Event: New Ballfield Inauguration
Date & Time: May 16: 11am - 4pm
Location: 4th & Dauphin Streets
Contact: Michael Melendez, (215) 686-0478

Wissinoming Park
Event: Flea Market & Family Fun
Date & Time: May 30: 9am - 2pm
Location: Wissinoming Park
Contact: Debbie Darroyo, (215) 288-7867

Malcolm X Memorial Park
Event: Work Day
Date & Time: May 30: 10am - 2pm
Location: Malcolm X Memorial Park
Contact: Tshombe Choice, (215) 476-5412

Gorgas Park
Event: Roxborough Festival of Arts
Date & Time: May 16, 17: All day
Location: Gorgas Park
Contact: John Boyce, (215) 487-3725

Fairhill Square
Event: Park Patrol/Clean-up
Date & Time: Tuesdays: 4:30pm
Location: Fairhill Park
Contact: Marcelle Martin, (215) 423-7465

Carroll Park
Event: Park Patrol/Clean-up
Date & Time: Mondays: 4:00pm
Location: Carroll Park
Contact: Michelle Flowers, (215) 235-9136

Coming Up in Spring

May

Mini Bus Trip to 59th Annual Herb Sale, Historic Yellow Springs ..... Thursday, May 7
Bus Departs 8:00am from 4601 Market Street. **You must preregister**. **Fee: $5.** Call the Penn State Urban Gardening Program: (215) 471-2224.

Lecture: Urban Stresses on City Trees .....Thursday, May 14
Slide Show held at Borders Book Shop, 8701Germantown Avenue, Chestnut Hill. 7:00pm. **Free.**

Junior Flower Show ..... Wed. & Thurs , May 20 - 21
Held at Memorial Hall in West Fairmount Park. For more information call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897. See page four for details about artistic classes and entry rules.

City Hall Planting ..... Thursday, May 28
Held at City Hall from 9:00am - 12:00.

June

Registration Deadline: City Gardens Contest .....Wednesday, June 10

"Get Ready, Get Set, Grow" .....Wednesday, June 10, 6:00 - 7:30pm
Part I of a two part series on Growing for the Harvest Show at "The Spring Garden," 18th and Wallace, Phila., PA. **Free.** Date for Part II: September 14, 5:30 - 7:00pm. Please call Linda Davis, (215) 988-8776.

Tree Tenders Training.....Wed., June 3, 10th & 17, 6:00 -9:00pm; Saturday, June 13, 10:00 - Noon. PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor. Please call Mindy Maslin for an application for the program, (215) 988-8844.

Fourth Annual Summer Tenders' Picnic with a Purpose ..... Saturday, June 13
Held at Awbury Arboretum in Germantown, Walnut Lane between Chew Avenue and Ardleigh Street. 10:00am - 1:00pm. Pot luck, tree activities and other hands-on learning activities. For more infomation, please call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Attention City Gardeners!

Be a judge:

Spend one day this summer stepping among tomatoes, cotton, zinnias and zucchini. Visit gardens as large as city blocks or as tiny as a backyard corner. We need your expertise!

Be a Contestant:

While you're primping and pruning in your garden, watch for the City Gardens Contest entry blank in the mail, or call (215) 988-8897. Show us your stuff!

Deadline Is June 10th. Call Flossie Narducci become a judge or a contestant: (215) 988-8897.

Take a Safari in Fairmount Park !

Attend BioBlitz '98

Break out your magnifying glass and join Fairmount Park's Environmental Education program for a safari right in Fairmount Park. Explore the wildlife habitats of your own city: Learn about butterflies, bats and bio-diversity; help build a mosaic eco-mural; join in a campfire sing; learn how to plant a butterfly garden; and enjoy nature arts and crafts. You'll also see scientists identify living creatures in the Park's 900 acres.

When: Friday & Saturday, June 12 and 13, 11:00am - 3:00pm
Where: Horticulture Center, Montgomery Avenue off Belmont Avenue.
Who: All ages are invited to join this fun, free, family activity.

Volunteer at BioBlitz '98:
Volunteer opportunities include: assisting with children's activities; helping in the park's butterfly garden; and checking in visitors and volunteers.

Eighth Annual "First Ripened Tomato " Contest

Attention Community Gardeners! It's time for the *Eighth Annual First Ripened Tomato* Contest, sponsored by the Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA). First and second ripened tomatoes winners will receive a gift certificate for **Primex Garden Center**.

The contest is a chance for gardeners to have some rewarding fun with their tomato plantings. **An NGA staff person must see your tomato while it is still on the vine.** Call NGA at (215) 988-8797 as soon as your vine ripened tomato appears. NGA, an organization dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening, looks forward to hearing from you.

Who is the Neighborhood Gardens Association?
Most community gardeners don't own the land where they garden. At any time, the landowner may put the property up for sale, or the owner may request that the gardeners vacate the land. NGA helps gardeners preserve their gardens by offering assistance with various reale estate/land ownership options. To find out more about how NGA can help save your garden, please call (215) 988-9797.

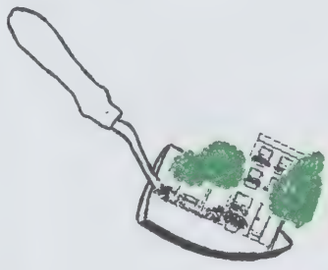
Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities . . .

Share your gardening know-how by becoming a volunteer for PHS's Public Landscapes Department. To keep public spaces throughout the City beautiful, we need the strong hands of city gardeners!

Spring Workdays
Where: Spring Garden Street Median between 18th & 22nd Streets and Spring Garden Street.
When: Saturdays: May 9th and June 13th. 8:00am - 11:00am.

Where: The Azalea Garden
When: Saturdays: May 16 and June 20. 9:00am - Noon.

Where: Eastern State Penitentiary
When: Saturdays: May 9 and June 6. 9:00am - Noon.



For directions to the work sites or for more details, please call **Joan Kapczynski (215) 988-8865.** PG News will keep you posted on Public Landscapes summer workdays.

Community Gardener Crochets Hats From Recycled Beer Cans for Kensington South Community Garden

by Torbin Jenk, member Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council; Philadelphia Green Advisory Board

To raise money for her ever-expanding, seasonally-decorated, festive community garden, **Betty Livewell** of **Kensington South** has perfected the art of crocheting caps from beer cans.

How does she do it? She cuts off the tops and bottoms of recycled tin beer cans, slices the cans down the middle, then punches holes in them. By stitching yarn through the holes and colorfully painting various logos onto the cans, an altogether new kind of hat is born. Each hat consists of between four and six cans. Kensington South Flyers and Phillies fans spent $20.00 on each first edition cap which displayed Phillies and Flyers logos. They proudly wore them while watching their favorite teams at the local "tappy".

All monies go toward Betty's gardening projects at the community garden at **Howard and Master Streets** in **Kensington South.** Some projects have included building a gazebo bridge and an arbor, and planting flowers and other plants.

If you're interested in purchasing one or more of these unique hats, please call the Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council, **(215) 427-3463.** We' ll pass along your request to Betty.

*Do you have a story about your fellow community gardeners or community gardening experiences? Call or write **Lauri Brunton**, (215) 988-8768; e-mail lbrunton@pennhort.org; or mail to: PHS 100 N. 20th street-5th floor, Phila, PA 19103. Your story may be published!*

Edited by Lauri Alice Brunton
Printed on Recycled Paper

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Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 20 • No. 5 • June

For Nourishment and Hope, Dine at the Back Home Cafe

"We like to call ourselves a delicious job initiative" says **Lynn Giordano**, cafe manager for **Project H.O.M.E.'s Back Home Cafe** at 1515 Fairmount Avenue. Project H.O.M.E., founded in 1989 by **Sister Mary Scullion** and **Joan Dawson-McConnon,** offers care for formerly homeless people including transitional and permanent housing and support services such as medical care, education and employment. The Back Home Cafe is just one of the places residents can work.

Adds Lynn, "we stick to simple food and basic recipes. Cucumber dill salad, Maryland crab cake sandwiches, Mega tuna salad with toasted almonds and broccoli, and Virginia baked ham sandwiches are some of the menu items."

An extra special treat, the herbs used to flavor the food are fresh from a side garden created by former Project H.O.M.E. staffer **Pam Rowen** and other volunteers. Said Pam, "After attending a **Philadelphia Green Garden Tenders** training course two years ago, we saw how it would be possible to change a huge trash pile into something beautiful and functional."

Visit the sunny cafe for breakfast, lunch or Saturday brunch. Formerly homeless women and men operate the cash register, prepare all vegetables and salads, cook and clean-up. And written onto their work shirts, we are reminded of the Irish proverb "It is in the shelter of each other that the people live."

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The Back Home Cafe at 1515 Fairmount Avenue, is open Monday - Friday , 7:30am - 3pm. Saturday, 9am - 1pm. For information, call (215) 232-7272, ext. 3027. Enjoy!

Community gardeners can help feed Philadelphia's hungry.

400,000 people in Philadelphia live in poverty, at risk of chronic hunger.

Help supply fresh vegetables and fruits for meals to MANNA's (Metropolitan AIDS Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance) Urban Roots program. Urban Roots, started in 1997 by volunteer Maris Wadleigh Curran, helps local gardeners direct a share of their bounty to MANNA's kitchen where meals are prepared daily for the homebound with AIDS. Please call MANNA, (215) 496-2662. Ask about the Urban Roots program or to leave a message for Maris or John.

Participate in PhilAbundance's Share the Harvest program. What do you do? Plan and plant your garden. When your vegetables are ready, you can deliver them to drop-off locations. PhilaAbundance volunteers will collect the food the same day. For a list of drop-off sites, or for more information, please call John Weidman, (215) 844-3663 ext 23.

Learn more about the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank. They are the largest distributor of donated food in the five-county Philadelphia region; they collect, store and prepare food for distribution to charitable agenices. You can reach them at (215) 739-7394.

Plant a Row for the Hungry. Plant an extra row of vegetables in your garden. Then distribute them to any of the places listed above. For row markers or information packets, please call the Garden Writers Association of America (703) 257- 1032.

Grow With Us!

Clippings

We Welcome New Philadelphia Green Staff

Keep your eyes peeled; two new people have joined Philadelphia Green's Park team. **Derrick McDonald** and **David Cooper** were hired as field services representatives this spring. They will work with project coordinators **Jeff Tober** and **Christine Howse** on a wide variety of park programs such as Art-in-the-Park Adopt-a-Tree, and others. Welcome them to your neighborhood when you see them!

Are You Having a Block Party?

Is your garden group holding a Block Party this year? The Streets Department requests that you apply for a permit before closing your street. Residents may submit one application containing several dates. Applications must be accompanied by a petition and a $5 fee (check or money order) for each date scheduled.

Applications must be mailed no later than 21 calendar days before the events, or the application will be returned unprocessed. Block party applications can be ordered or picked up at:

Highway Permit Unit
MSB 1401 JFK Blvd., Room 940
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 686-5560

Thank You for Helping Philadelphia Parks to Grow

Wissinoming Park, off Cheltanham and Frankford Avenue, thanks **Walmart** at Street Road in Feasterville, for donating 400 tulip bulbs; to **Mayfair Shop -N- Bag** at 6420 Frankford Avenue, and **WAWA** at Harbison & Comly Streets for donating Easter Flowers. The flowers have bloomed beautifully all spring.

Gorgas Park, 6300 - 6400 block of Ridge Avenue, thanks **John Boyce** and **Mike Sweeney** for putting together a great solicitation kit for its Roxborough Festival of the Arts held in May. It was instrumental in obtaining their presenting sponsor **Roxborough Manayunk Federal Saving Bank**.

William Penn Foundation Awards Philadelphia Green $450,000

We received this wonderful news at press time. The **William Penn Foundation** has awarded $450,000 to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for its proposal *Vacant Land Re-Use in Philadelphia: A Study and Action Plan.* Look for details about this joint effort with the City of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in the July/August issue of Philadelphia Green News.

Congratulations to Two *Philadelphia Award* Winners: Jane Golden and Anne d'Harnoncourt

Jane Golden, a talented and tireless leader of the **Philadelphia Mural Arts Program**, and **Anne d'Harnoncourt,** director and chief executive officer of the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**, will share the Philadelphia Award. The award is presented each year to a citizen of Philadelphia or its environs who has done the most to "advance the best interests of the community."

Both leaders have been important Philadelphia Green partners for many years. With help from communities, Jane and her team have created more than 30 murals at Philadelphia Green sites over the past 10 years; Anne and her staff have worked with Philadelphia Green and Fairmount Park on the Art Museum's landscape rehabilitation project since 1992. Congratulations to Jane Golden and Anne d'Harnoncourt; we commend you and are delighted to celebrate your accomplishments.

Call This New Phone Number

If you would like to request a soil delivery, ask about a new project, or to learn who your current project coordinator is, please call (215) 988-8862.

If you have a question about an existing Philadelphia Green project, please call your current project coordinator.

In the Garden

All About Roses

Planting

Roses prefer well-drained, loamy garden soil. Amend soil by adding about half organic matter to the existing soil when you dig the hole. Compost, well-rotted manure, leaf mold or peat moss are good choices.

Bareroot Roses Soak roses overnight. Plant with the knuckle (the swollen or enlarged area where the top variety is grafted to the rootstock) at soil level. In areas colder than Philadelphia, plant with the knuckle an inch below the soil level to protect from winter freezes. Water in well. Hill up soil around the bottom of the stem until the new leaves emerge, then remove soil with a stream of water. DO NOT FERTILIZE newly planted bareroot roses until they become well established.

Boxed Roses Disregard directions on the box. Remove the box and treat as a bareroot plant.

Container Roses Treat as any other container plant. Remove from pot and plant it at the same level as it was planted in the container. Water well and feed with a half-strength liquid fertilizer.

Summer Care of Roses

If you didn't already do this in the early spring, remove mulch or other protective materials from the crown of the plant.

Prune

Hybrid Tea & Floribunda Prune out dead, damaged and diseased canes. Select 3-6 healthy canes spaced in an open vase shape (Y shape). Cut back to healthy clean wood about 8-12" from the base. Prune to outward facing buds, and make cuts about 1/4" above the bud. Keep the center of the crown open to air and light. Clean up canes and old leaves that can harbor overwintering diseases and pests. Dispose of these away from the garden; it will reduce the need for spraying during the summer.

Miniatures Prune back to 3-5". Remove all twiggy growth, especially from center.

Fertilize

After pruning, spread about 3/4 to one cup granular fertilizer around each bush: 5-10-5, 10-6-4 or Rosetone. Scratch it in and water. Roses also benefit from the addition of organic matter; spread 2-3" of rotted manure or compost around the bushes in late winter or early spring and work into soil. If using a liquid fertilizer, follow directions on the label.

Check for Diseases

Blackspot, caused by a fungus, is the most common disease to affect roses. Prevent the fungus by spraying emerging leaves with a fungicide. Insecticidal Soap Fungicide/Miticide is effective against both fungi and mites, and is relatively safe to the environment. **Follow directions on the label**, and DO NOT SPRAY IN FULL SUN, since it will burn the leaves. Mildew is also a fungal disease, and can be controlled with a dormant oil or summer oil spray.

Check for Insects

Check periodically for problems with aphids and mites. A sharp spray of water on the underside of leaves will dislodge mites. Insecticidal soaps are effective against many pests, including mites and aphids.

Water

Water roses weekly if it rains less than one inch. Water early in the day so foliage can dry out. Mulch to retain soil moisture.

Deadhead

Remove spent blooms to encourage more flowers. Cut back to 1/4" above the first five-leaflet node on the branch. Strong buds at these nodes will produce larger flowers in about six weeks. (Leaves above this point usually have three leaflets, and will produce weaker flowers.)

Cut Flowers

Cut flowers for indoor enjoyment. Buds are ready for cutting when sepals (green petals) unfold and some color shows. As when deadheading, cut flowers 1/4" above five-leaflet node. Cut in the morning, and immediately place cut flowers in a bucket of water.

Condition Flowers

Recut stems before placing in a vase. Add sugar and a few drops of bleach to warm water, add flowers, and refrigerate for a few hours if possible. Conditioned blooms will last much longer.

Plant from Seed in June:

beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots
cauliflower
collards
corn
cucumbers
dahlias
herbs
okra
melons
pumpkins
squash

Plant from plants:

broccoli
brussels sprouts
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
eggplant
herbs
peppers
sweet potatoes
tomatoes
columbines
peonies
irises
phlox
asters

Coming Up in Spring

June

Registration Deadline: City Gardens Contest .....Wednesday, June 10

"Get Ready, Get Set, Grow" .....Wednesday, June 10, 6:00 - 7:30pm
Part I of a two part series on Growing for the Harvest Show at "The Spring Garden," 18th and Wallace, Phila., PA. **Free. Part II: September 14, 5:30 - 7:00pm**.
For more information, please call **Linda Davis**, (215) 988-8776.

Tree Tenders Training.....Wed., June 3, 10th & 17, 6:00 -9:00pm; Saturday, June 13, 10:00 - Noon.
PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor.
Please call **Mindy Maslin** for program application, (215) 988-8844.

Annual Summer Tree Tenders' Picnic with a Purpose ..... Saturday, June 13, 10:00 - 1:00pm.
Held at Awbury Arboretum in Germantown, Walnut Lane between Chew Avenue and Ardleigh Street. Pot luck, tree activities and other hands-on learning activities.
For more infomation, please call **Mindy Maslin**, (215) 988-8844.

Attention City Gardeners! Participate in the City Gardens Contest

Be a Judge:

Spend one day this summer stepping among tomatoes, cotton, zinnias and zucchini. Visit gardens as large as city blocks or as tiny as a backyard corner. We need your expertise.

Be a Contestant:

Fill out the form below and mail to City Gardens Contest, PHS, 100 N. 20th St. 5th Fl. Phila, PA 19103 by **June 10**. Show us your stuff!

The deadline to become a judge or contestant in the City Gardens Contest is **June 10.** For more information, please call **Flossie Narducci**: (215) 988-8897.

✂----------

TO ENTER THE CITY GARDENS CONTEST

First place winners receive $50.00, second place $25, and third place $10 gift certificates. All winners receive a one-year membership to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

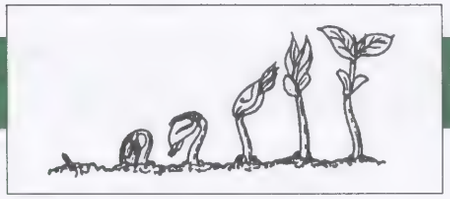
Address of Garden: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Check appropriate category

INDIVIDUAL GARDENS
❑Individual Vegetable Garden
❑Individual Flower Garden
❑Combination Flower/Vegetable Garden
❑Individual Container Garden
❑Child's Garden

COMMUNITY GARDENS
❑Community Vegetable Garden
❑Community Flower/Sitting Garden
❑Combination Vegetable/Flower Garden
❑Children's Garden
❑Garden Block with Window Boxes and Sidewalk Planters
❑"The Greenest Block in Town" Street trees/front yards



Come on Out !
June Park Events

Norris Square Park
Event: Park Meetings
(held the third Wed. of each month)
Date & Time: June 17, 11:30-1:00
Location: Community Center, 173 Norris Street
Contact: Darling Rosario, 634-2227

Event: Park Clean Up
Date & Time: June 20
Location: Norris Square
Contact: Darling Rosario, 634-2227

Gorgas Park
Event: Concert & Barbecue
Date & Time: July 3, evening
Location: Gorgas Park
Contact: John Boyce, 487-3725

Malcolm X Memorial Park
Event: Park meeting
Date & Time: June 11, 6:00pm
Location: First Corinthian Baptist Church at 51st and Pine
Contact: Tshombe Choice, 476-5412

Each of these parks participates in Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project, funded by the William Penn Foundation. The nine Department of Recreation parks also include Fairhill Square, Wharton Square, Carroll Park, Elmwood Park, Vernon Park, and Wissinoming Park.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities at Philadelphia Green

Share your gardening know-how by becoming a volunteer for PHS's Public Landscapes Department. To keep public spaces throughout the City beautiful, we need your help!

Where: Spring Garden Street Median between 18th & 22nd Streets and Spring Garden Street.
When: Saturday, June 13th. 8:00am - 11:00am.

Where: The Azalea Garden
When: Saturday, June 20. 9:00am - Noon.

Where: Eastern State Penitentiary
When: Saturday, June 6. 9:00am - Noon.

For directions to the work sites or for more work details, please call **Joan Kapczynski (215) 988-8865.** PG News will keep you posted on Public Landscapes summer workdays in the July/August issue.

Enter NGA's Eighth Annual "First Ripened Tomato" Contest

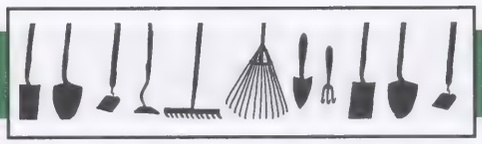
Attention Community Gardeners! It's time for the *Eighth Annual First Ripened Tomato* Contest, sponsored by the Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA). First and second ripened tomatoes winners will receive a gift certificate for **Primex Garden Center**.

The contest is a chance for gardeners to have some rewarding fun with their tomato plantings. **An NGA staff person must see your tomato while it is still on the vine.** Call NGA at (215) 988-8797 as soon as your vine ripened tomato appears. NGA, an organization dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening, looks forward to hearing from you.

The Friends of the Wissahickon Need Volunteers

Come help remove invasive vines from the Wissahickon Gorge park area in Philadelphia, PA.

Vine clearings will be held the third Saturday of each month from 10:00am - Noon. Meet at the lower parking lot at Bells Mill Road and Forbidden Drive. The work is somewhat strenuous, but it's fun, and when you're done you can count the trees you've saved! For more information, please call **David Bower,** (215) 843-8753.



West Philadelphia's Carroll Park Patrol Group Collects 1,800 Pounds of Trash

by Michelle Flowers

With help from the **Friends of Carroll Park**, our new **Park Patrol Group,** made up of 11 neighborhood kids ages nine - 12, has collected more than 300 pounds of trash, bottles, cans and other debris since we first began meeting weekly in February. Carroll Park is one of nine Philadelphia Parks participating in Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Program.

At a special clean up day in April, **Americorp's Young Heros** and **City Year** volunteers helped us pick up more than 1,500 pounds of trash. That adds up to more than 1,800 pounds of trash removed from Carroll Park in just a few months.

We've also cleaned park planters to prepare them for new flowers and removed graffitti in the hope that it will deter more vandals. We've mulched trees and refreshed paint on park fixtures. The Friends of Carroll Park meets each Monday from 3:00 - 5:00pm; the Park Patrol meets each Monday from 4:00 - 6:00pm. For more information, please call Michelle Flowers, 215-235-9136.

Carroll Park Applies for Grant

Recently, the Friends of Carroll Park applied for a Philadelphia Activities Fund grant to enhance scheduled fall programs for children such as educational and environmental field trips to area arboretums, local natural wonders and scientific institutes.Visiting such places is a great way to get ideas about what we can do in our park. For more information about the Philadelphia Activities Fund, please call (215) 686-3627 or (215) 686-6118.

Michelle Flowers heads the Park Patrol Group. She 's a third year gradute student at Temple University where she studies Visual and Urban Anthropology. She is currently work-ing on her master's thesis "From the Soil Up."

Edited by Lauri Alice Brunton
Printed on Recycled Paper

June 1998

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Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 20 · No. 6 · July/August 1998

PHS Awarded $450,000 Grant From The William Penn Foundation

Philadelphia Green to consider new and innovative ways to re-use vacant land throughout the City.

Despite the hundreds of successful green spaces throughout Philadelphia, including community gardens, parks and individual gardens, a rapidly growing amount of vacant land threatens to overwhelm efforts to revitalize our communities.

To date, no cohesive policies or procedures exist to deal with Philadelphia's vacant land on a citywide level. Through this grant, Philadelphia Green will work with the City, neighborhood organizations and other non-profits to investigate options for addressing the problem of vacant land in the future.

Our partners in this work include the **City Planning Commission**, the **City's Office of Housing** and **Community Development (OHCD)**, City Council Representative **Happy Fernandez** and the **Pennsylvania Environmental Council**.

What the Study and Action Plan Will Accomplish

The impetus for this grant began in 1995 when two studies were produced focusing on the vacant land issue: *Urban Vacant Land: Issues and Recommendations*, produced by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and *Vacant Land in Philadelphia*, produced by the City Planning Commission. In 1996, OHCD produced V*acant Property Prescriptions: A Reinvestment Strategy*, which also addressed the growing concern about vacant land.

Philadelphia Green will evaluate ten neighborhoods in lower North Philadelphia, between Broad Street and the Delaware River and from Spring Garden Street to Lehigh Avenue. We will consider what actions, roles and resources are necessary for neighborhoods to manage vacant land. The plan will recommend strategies and procedures for Philadelphia's city government to address the critical issue of vacant land.

Since 1995, Philadelphia Green has been testing the model for neighborhood vacant land management first proposed in PHS's study. The model has been applied to the New Kensington community in North Philadelphia through a grant from OHCD; its success to date informed our proposal to The William Penn Foundation for the current grant.

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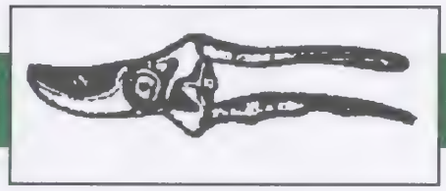

Clippings

ArtForms Gallery in Manayunk and the Doylestown Presbyterian Church are Generous Supporters of Philadelphia Green

ArtForms Gallery in Manayunk, PA has contributed $520 to Philadelphia Green. The Gallery's artist members donated hand decorated flower pots for the exhibit "Pistils & Stamens" held in April and May; the gallery has donated proceeds from the sale of these pots to Philadelphia Green.

The Women's Ministries Commitee of the **Doylestown Presbyterian Church** donated $130 to Philadelphia Green. They held a garden sale in May and dedicated a portion of their proceeds to Philadelphia Green; a member of their congregation also donated to PG a portion of proceeds from her nursery as well.

Both donations will help us green the City's neighborhoods. We thank you for your generosity.

Do You Need Soil Delivered?

If you would like to request a soil delivery, ask about a new project or learn who your current project coordinator is, please call (215) 988-8862.

If you have a question about an existing Philadelphia Green project, please call your current project coordinator.

Participants Needed for Home Compost Project

Anyone interested in participating in a pilot home compost project for small urban lots should contact **Bob Pierson, (215) 925-5971.** Leave a message with your name, address and phone number. Participants will receive a free compost bin and instructions.One requirement: you must keep a log of amount composted. The project, sponsored by **State Representative Babette Josephs** and supported by the **Philadelphia Streets Department** and **PhilaPride** begins in September and is limited to 60 households.

Who to Call if You See Graffiti

Graffitti appears on many different surfaces. If you see graffiti, please alert the organizations/business by calling the numbers below:

Recreation Centers: (215) 686-3622
City Buildings: (215) 686-3483
Signs, traffic signals: (215) 686-5560
Newspaper Boxes: (215) 854-5774
PECO Property: (215) 731-3235
Mailboxes: (215) 895-8610
Parking Meters: (215) 977-7270
PGW Property: (215) 684-6774

Neighbors, the Police and the Department of Licenses and Inspection Pitch in to Clear Lot for Future Garden

When **Garden Tenders Elaine Wallace** and **Doris Phillips** of **HERO** (Helping Energize and Revitalize Ourselves) and teenagers **Miranda Pridgen**, **Alisa Pridgen**, **Ebony Jainlett**, **Eugena Humphrey**, **Michael Franklin**, and **Reginald Trice,** of the newly formed group **Young Minds of the Future,** decided to make a garden out of the lot turned neighborhood dump at **16th and Indiana**, they couldn't have anticipated how they'd get help. Here's what happened:

HERO hired a demolition company to haul beautiful stones from a nearby crumbling church to erect a wall around the garden. The police, used to seeing people dump garbage at this site, nearly arrested the driver. After being alerted, Elaine and Doris ran down to explain they were creating a garden from the lot.

Impressed by their project, sanitation officer **Tyrone Wiggins** of the 39th District, called the **Department of Licenses and Inspection** to help the gardeners clear the lot. The next week, L&I came out with a bulldozer and hauled away at least a ton of trash.

"It would have taken us months to clear it all, even with the help of the whole community", said Elaine, "L&I has been an incredible help." The community will use the new garden, **Hope Park,** as a family activity garden with a gazebo and a barbecue pit. If you'd like to help out, please call HERO, (215) 430-0384.

Coming Up in Summer

August

Garden Features ..... Saturday, August 8, 1:30pm
Maureen O'Hara, garden advisor for Penn State Urban Gardening, will speak about garden features at Las Parcelas Garden, 2257 N. 2nd Street. For more information, please call (215) 471-2224.

Be sure to check out the summer/fall highlights calendar, printed on the back page of the *Treebune* enclosed with this issue of PG News. The *Treebune* is printed quarterly as a supplement to the PG News.

Come on Out ! Summer Park Meetings & Clean Ups

Carroll Park
Event: Park Meeting
Date & Time: July 16; Aug. 20; 7pm
Location: Bluford School or Church of the Living God (TBA)
Event: Park Clean Up
Date & Time: July 18; August 15; 10am - 1pm
Location: Carroll Park
Contact: Michelle Flowers (215) 235-9136

Malcolm X Memorial Park
Event: Park Meeting
Date & Time: July 9; Aug. 13; 6pm
Location: First Corinthian Baptist Church at 51st and Pine
Event: Park Clean Up
Date & Time: Every Thurs., 4-6pm; Sat. July 25; Aug. 22, 10 - 12
Location: First Corinthian Baptist Church, 51st and Pine
Contact: Tshombe Choice (215) 476-5412

Fairhill Square
Event: Park Meeting
Date & Time: July 13; August 10; 7:00pm
Location: TBA
Event: Park Clean Up
Date & Time: July 11; August 8; 10:00-Noon
Location: First Corinthian Baptist Church at 51st and Pine
Contact: Marcelle Martin (215) 423-7465

Each of these parks participates in Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project, funded by the William Penn Foundation. The nine Department of Recreation parks also include Fairhill Square, Wharton Square, Carroll Park, Elmwood Park, Vernon Park, and Wissinoming Park.

Horticulture: Summer Maintenance

by Sally McCabe

No doubt about it—July is definitely summer. Plenty of heat, not enough rain, and weeds almost tall enough to shade the trees. Needless to say, there's plenty to do in the garden this month.

Maintenance

Water deeply, at least once a week. It's not enough just to give plants a "social sprinkle" every night while you gossip with your neighbors. If you're watering by hand, tomato and peppers plants need about a gallon of water every other night if it doesn't rain.

Side-dress by spreading about a handful of general purpose fertilizer (10-10-10 or 5-10-5 or 5-10-10) around each large plant in a circle 3" from the plant's base. For rows of plants, run a line of fertilizer alongside the row, about two inches from the plants. Lightly scratch the fertilizer into the surface of the soil.

Weeding and thinning are "musts". Keep plants from competing for space and soil moisture by pulling out weeds and thinning out more crowded plantings, especially root crops.

Mulch. Anything that covers the soil to warm it up, cool it off, keep it moist, or keep weeds from growing is considered a mulch. Newspaper, hay, plastic wood chips or leaves are all good mulches.

Harvest Like Crazy

Keep plants picked. Once plants ripen up their fruit they call it quits unless the ripe fruit is removed.

Vigilance

Watch for bugs since they don't mind the heat a bit, and will take advantage of the time you spend inside in front of a fan.

See the Philadelphia Museum of Art's New Landscape

Phase I is Complete and the New Blooms Show it

Its a time for celebration! Phase I of the Philadelphia Museum of Art's landscape rehabilitation has been completed. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green has led this project from its beginnings and we are thrilled to see it come into flower.

The East Courtyard, which faces the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, has received new plantings and eight healthy, new empress trees.

Art Museum Drive has been realigned with Kelly Drive to improve traffic visibility; the rock ledges have been planted with azaleas, rhododendrons and trees.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is one of the greatest cultural landmarks in our City. People come from all over the world to visit; students from all disciplines in Philadelphia and elsewhere draw knowledge from the great works of art held in the handsome building.

With the completion of Phase I, the landscape surrounding the Museum has begun to equal the magnificence of its structure.

By working to create beautiful green spaces in our public spaces, in our neighborhoods and at cultural landmarks like the Museum, we can truly begin to call Philadelphia a green City.

The **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**, the **Fairmount Park Commission**, the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**, the press and other interested parties gathered in the Museum's East Courtyard on June 9 to celeb-rate the marvelous accomplishment.

We will continue to update you on the restoration of the grounds around the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Edited by Lauri Alice Brunton
Printed on Recycled Paper

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The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor
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Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 20 • No. 6 • September 1998

Summer Youth Programs Inspire Kids and Communities

At the Village of Arts and Humanities in North Philadelphia, Fledgling groups help prepare a lot for the new Village Farm as part of the summer program.

"Youth programs are integral to neighborhood revitalization projects at the **Village of Arts and Humanities, Francisville** and **Norris Square;** without them the work wouldn't get done." says **Eileen Gallagher**, project manager for Philadelphia Green (PG). This past summer, many Philadelphia kids contributed strongly and positively to their neighborhoods.

Both the Village of Arts and Humanities and Norris Square are **Keystone Gardens**, prominent, high-profile community spaces that set standards for other neighborhoods to follow. PG provides them with ongoing assistance to encourage gardening excellence. Francisville and Norris Square were named **PG Greene Countrie Townes** several years ago because of the strong community commitment to use greening to revitalize their neighborhoods.

At the **Village of Arts and Humanities,** in North Philadelphia, Fledgling (6-12 yrs.) and Teen groups (13-18 yrs.) took painting, drawing, ceramics and horticulture classes, then put their knowledge to use by maintaining and creating new gardens and parks around the Village.

"The Teen groups have a special incentive to join the program," said **Heidi Warren**, managing director of the Village, "We pay them to do constructive work to change their community."

This summer, the Teens and Fledglings joined 11 Americorps volunteers for a special project: to create the **Village Farm** at the corner of 11th and Cumberland Streets. On the former site of six vacant lots, kids prepared soil and raised beds, then planted vegetables. Toward the back of the farm land, they dug two ditches and planted tree seedlings.

"Kids are so open to change; they see resources that adults sometimes can't see," continued Heidi. When **Lily Yeh**, founder and executive director of the Village, began a sculpture garden on a vacant lot in 1986, the kids stepped forward to help. Philadelphia Green has provided plants and technical assistance since those early days. Added Heidi, "Lily didn't intend

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Harvest Show Insert

Philadelphia Harvest Show
September 19 & 20
Horticulture Center
Fairmount Park
See insert for details!

Clippings

Do You Need Soil Delivered?

If you would like to request a soil delivery for your Philadelphia Green project, request a new PG project or learn who your current project coordinator is, please call **(215) 988-8862**. If you have any other questions about an existing PG project, please call your current project coordinator.

Free Library of Philadelphia Solicits Help From Philadelphia Green

The North East Branch of the Free Library requested PG's help to replace three trees that were in decline near the front of their building. Library staffers **Dennis Campbell** and **Pat Pownall** helped by planting perennials at the base of the new trees; library staff continue to water and maintain them. The new plantings were part of the **Library's Big Change Campaign,** which seeks to improve libraries, indoors and outdoors, city wide.

Are You Interested in Receiving PG's Impact 2000 Letters?

Impact 2000 is a series of reports about PHS's Philadelphia Green Program and our various initiatives throughout the City. These reports are informational and will help raise the awareness of public policy makers and others who are working to make Philadelphia a better, safer place to live. Please email **John Gannon, jgannon@pennhort.org**

Do You Have Extra Garden Catalogs Floating Around?

The new **New Kensington Garden Center** has begun educational garden programs to expose New Kensington youth to the wonders and joys of gardening in the City. Gardening catalogs are helpful to their programs.

If you would like to donate yours, please send to: New Kensington CDC, 2515 Frankford Avenue, Phila., PA 19125, ATTN: Jennifer Rulf.
If you need to arrange for a pick-up, please call **Jennifer Rolf, (215) 427-0350, ext. 106**. Thanks!

A Bright, White Gazebo Installed at Sarah Allens Homes

No sooner than the gazebo had been set in the ground at **Sarah Allen Homes SRO** (Single Resident Occupancy) this summer, than the women who live there were socializing in its cool shade.

Plans to install the gazebo had been settled upon in the early nineties when Sarah Allen Homes was identified as a PG target area; **Rasheeda Hymen**, director of the SRO, worked with **Jim Wilcox,** executive director of the **Friends Rehabilitation Program**, to see this project through to completion. Congratulations for a job accomplished!

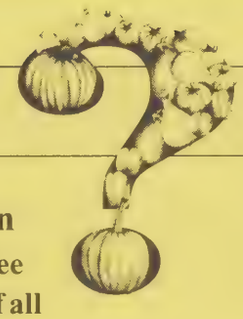
Congratulations to the 1998 Tomato Contest Winners!

Maye Clement, East Oak Lane resident, is this year's first prize winner in the **Neighborhood Gardens Association's** (NGA) "First Ripe Tomato on the Vine" contest. Maye gardened for 15 years in a community garden. When the garden shut down two years ago, she turned to her backyard garden where she grows flowers, vegetables and herbs.

Leo Frontino took second prize. Leo lives in South Philadelphia but travels to the Eastwick Community Garden (62nd and Eastwick) to tend his two garden plots. His garden patches yield bountiful harvests of cucumbers, beets, red cabbage and hot sweet peppers that supplement the diets of his large family (12 grandchildren and three great granchildren).

This contest is sponsored annually by NGA, a non-profit group dedicated to preserving land for community gardening. Garden groups interested in more information about their preservation program are invited to call **(215) 988-8797**.

All About the Harvest Show



1998 Harvest Show, *Did You Know? . . . Harvest Trivia* will be held on September 19 & 20 at Fairmount Park's Horticulture Center. You'll see mouth watering vegetables and glorious flowers; jars filled with preserved products of all kinds from pepper relish to elder-berry jelly; carefully designed major exhibits and more.

Pre-Show Workshop: Philadelphia Harvest Show Part II

Monday, Sept. 14, 5:30 - 7:00pm

Join **Philadelphia Green** and **Penn State's Urban Gardening Program** to get your entries ready for the Philadelphia Harvest Show. Learn how to prepare flowers, vegetables, herbs and preserved products to win top prizes at the Show.

Doris Stahl, garden advisor from Penn State's Urban Gardening staff, will conduct this follow-up workshop at **The Spring Garden**; we'll harvest the bounty from the test plot planted during the spring workshop.

You are invited to attend free of charge, but must **pre-register**. To register, please call Linda Davis, (215) 988-8776. The Spring Garden is several blocks north of the Ben Franklin Parkway at 18th and Wallace. **Note: Entry tags for the Show will be available at this workshop.**

Public Transportation to the Harvest Show

Take SEPTA Route #38 to Belmont and Montgomery. Walk from Montgomery to North Horticulture Drive and go through the gates to the Horticulture Center

Harvest Show Lectures and Demonstrations

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

12pm *New Trends in Flower Arranging:* Bernice Makin
1pm *Container Gardening:* Michael Bowell
2pm *Fall in the Garden*: TBA
3pm *Peppers! Peppers! Peppers!:* Gus Jardel

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

12pm *Gardening for Butterflies*: Judith Levicoff
1pm *Arranging the Harvest*: Eva Monheim
2pm *Kitchen Gardening:* Lorraine Kiefer

Put on Your Dancin' Shoes at the Harvest Party Square Dance

Join other community gardeners for a Harvest Party on Saturday, September 19, 6 -8:30pm. Recieve two **FREE** tickets to this year's party. Fill out the request form (reverse); send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Flossie Narducci, PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. **Requests must be received by September 10th.**

Enter the Great Pumpkin Pie Contest

When: Saturday, September 19. Register from 1- 2:15pm.
How: Come with a 9" pumpkin pie and recipe printed on a 3"x 5" card. Winners will be announced at the Show (you do not have to be present to win) or contacted by telephone. For more information, please call **Steve Maurer,** (215) 988-8833.

Bring Kids to the Children's Tent

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20 11am - 4pm
Learn about gardening, butterflies, worms and much more at the Junior Gardener's Studio. Paint pumpkins, make leaf and seed masks and play the apple game inside the tent. On the back lawn, play the autumn games - Sack Slalom, Bean Put and Pumpkin Push; and make scarecrows. Little ones can play in the toddler hay area.

Entering the Harvest Show

Entering the Show ahead of time will put you in the express lane at registration time and will help us enormously. To enter, please fill out the form below. You **can** make entries without pre-registering by bringing them in during Registration (see dates and times in the shaded box).

Getting Your Entry to the Show

◆ **Stake container plants** for extra support.

◆ **Cut holes** in overturned cartons; place pots in cut-outs for added security.

◆ **A rod attached to the clothes hanging fixture** in the car will support hanging baskets. Secure the rod or pole by sticking it between the window and the top of the car door; roll the window up as far as it will go to prevent slipping. To keep plant from swinging, attach it to a brick or cinderblock below the seat.

◆ **A bucket with a weight in the bottom** and stuffed with newspaper will also support a hanging basket during transport.

When to Register

Thursday, September 17, 3:30 - 7pm
Friday, September 18, 7:30 - 10am

Where to Register

The **Fairmount Park Horticulture Center** is located on Horticulture Drive, near the intersection of Montgomery & Belmont Aves., in the West park. Entry aides at the gate will direct you to the proper registration area.

◆ **When bringing vegetables or fruit for entry**, pack each set of entries in a separate bag with their completed entry tag. Too much time spent sorting entries at the Show could mean missed deadlines.

◆ **Transport flowers in water** if possible to prevent wilting. Avoid spills by filling jars only half way and standing them up in a box or bucket packed loosely with newspaper. Don't leave them sitting in the car in the sun while you unload other things.

HARVEST SHOW ENTRY FORM. Please complete and mail to: Harvest Show Community Garden Entries, PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. For entry tags, please call Flossie, (215) 988-8897.

Exhibitor _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ PHS Member? _____Yes _____No

First Time Harvest Show Exhibitor? _____Yes _____No

Community Garden _____

Please check entry type: ____ Preserved Product ____Baked Goods ____Horticulture ____Youth

Please also send me two FREE tickets to the Harvest Party _____ (Remember to send a SASE)

Neighborhood News: Philadelphia Parks

Landscape Project Kicks Off Busy Season at Carroll Park

by Jeff Tober, PG project coordinator

A major philosophy behind parks revitalization is to "keep the 'good' things happening in a park, and there won't be enough room for the 'bad.'" **Carroll Park**, at 58th and Girard Avenue, is filled with a variety of activities in an effort to attract people into the park. The **Carroll Park Neighbors**, a project of Carroll Park Community Council, have been organizing concerts, children's activities, volunteer projects and celebrations to keep the park exciting and alive. **Doris Gwaltney**, a Carroll Park Neighbor, says "All of the activity lets the community know that someone is home and that we care about our park."

On July 31st, 60 employees from **Ruppert Landscaping Company** in New Castle, Delaware donated a day of service to Carroll Park as a part of their annual Field Day. The Park received a remarkable make-over, complete with tree work, edging, weed removal and the installation of two central planting areas. The Carroll Park Neighbors were thrilled to reap the benefits of Ruppert's incredibly hard work and generosity.

Employees from Ruppert Landscaping Company donated a day of service to Carroll Park; the results were outstanding.

There's Lots to Do and See and You Can Help!

August marked the beginning of the **Park Patrol,** an after-school program for neighborhood children. The group will meet at the Park on Wednesdays for service, fun and environmental education. Call Michelle at **(215) 425-7107** for more information.

In August, the Carroll Park Community Council hosted the 19th annual **Pridefest** themed "Respect our Past, Celebrate our Future." Everyone enjoyed music, food, story telling and a fashion show.

The Carroll Park Neighbors will be hosting two concerts in the park in September: a mixed bag show on Thursday the 10th and a gospel performance featuring **Vine Memorial Baptist Church**, **Calvary Baptist Church** and **Mount Pleasant Baptist Church** on Thursday, September 17th. Music will start at 5:45pm. Bring your own chair, blanket and food.

On Saturday, October 10th, volunteers from the community will build a playground for the many children in the neighborhood. Volunteers will work with representatives of **Playground Environments Inc**. to construct a play areas for toddlers, and 5-12 year olds. The Carroll Park Neighbors are busy planning for the day which will include food, music, t-shirts, games, activities and a fall bulb sale. If you would like to get involved, please call **(215) 988-8764.**

•

Behind all of these activities are community members like **Doris Gwaltney**. A Carroll Park neighborhood resident for over 50 years, Doris is a true steward of Carroll Park. You will often find her in the park sweeping, painting over graffiti, picking up trash or just relaxing with other Carroll Park Neighbors. She makes phone calls, writes letters, hosts community meetings, seeks sponsorship and knocks on neighbors' doors to make sure good things continue in Carroll Park. Hop on the #10 trolley, take it to 58th and Girard and say hello to Doris...but be prepared to work while you chat!

Stop Thief! How to Make Shrubs Theft Proof

"Each time we bought new shrubs and planted them in our whiskey barrels, they would be stolen almost immediately," said **Anne Marie Vona**, who lives and gardens on the 1900 block of South Chadwick Street in South Philadelphia. In an urban environment, having plants stolen is an all too common occurence. Faced with the frustrating problem, however, community gardeners often come up with creative solutions to protect their plants. Here's a system devised by **Joe Procaccini** guaranteed to stop shrub thiefs in their tracks! Joe is a neighbor to Anne Marie, business owner on the 1900 block of South Chadwick Street and a plant enthusiast.

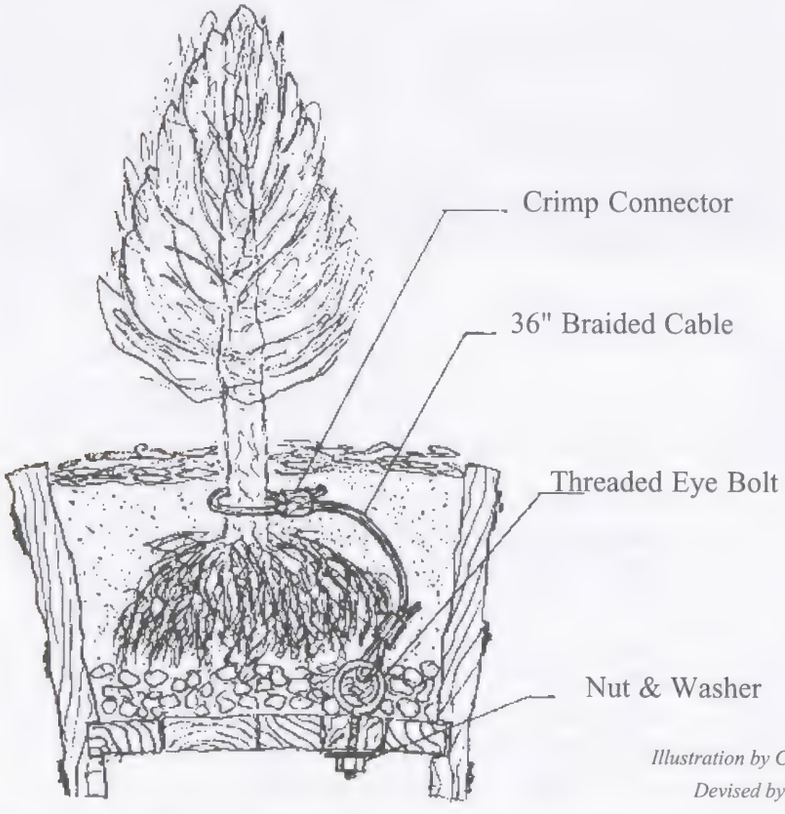


Illustration by Carmen C. Vona
Devised by Joe Procaccini

Step One: Empty your whiskey barrel; drill a hole in the bottom and insert a threaded eye bolt. Screw on nut and washer.

Step Two: Wrap a braided cable around trunk of shrub or tree just above the rootball. Using a crimp connector, fasten the cable together.

Step Three: Thread cable through eyebolt and crimp wire together.

Step Four: Replace Soil.

All supplies can be found in your local hardware store.

Preserve Your Garden this Fall with Dried Flowers

by Sally McCabe

Picking the Perfect Flowers

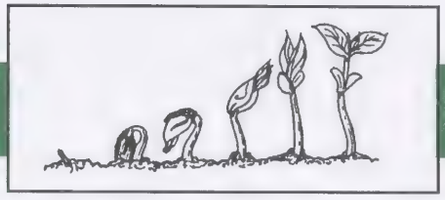
Almost any flower can be preserved by drying; herbs, berries, pods, cones, fruits and foliage should also be included. Select your harvest according to your needs; scent for potpourri; color and shape for arrangements. The best time to pick is a warm, sunny morning when plants are naturally dry and the buds and leaves are at their prettiest and most fragrant.

Preparing the Flowers

Once you've picked the best buds and blooms from your garden, remove most of the leaves to allow better air circulation. For roses, cut off the thorns as well. Place several stems together, cutting them at varying lengths. Flower heads should not touch or they may mildew before they dry.

Tie the bunch together at the base of the stem with a piece of elasticized string in a slip knot. A discarded nylon also works very well for this. Find a dry, cool and secluded spot to hang you bouquet. Although you don't need total darkness, avoid the sun or your plants' colors may fade. Pull the string or nylon tight and hang the bouquet upside down from a drying line. As the flowers begin to dry and the stems shrink, the nylon will adjust to keep the bunch compact.

Drying times will vary; be sure the bouquet is dry and crisp before removing for use in arrangements.



September

Art in the Park begins ..... Week of September 7 (date TBA)
This 8 week class is free and open to the public. Please call (215) 988-8764 for more information.

Philadelphia Harvest Show Workshop Part II ..... Monday, Sept. 14, 5:30 - 7pm
Join Philadelphia Green and Penn State's Urban Gardening Program to get your entries ready for the Harvest Show. The workshop will be held at The Spring Garden, several blocks north of the Ben Franklin Parkway at 18th and Wallace. **Free.** See Harvest Show insert this issue for details. Please call **Linda Davis**, (215) 988-8776 to register. **Pre-registration required**.

Tree Tenders Training ..... Wed., Sept. 16, 6-9pm; Wed., Sept. 23, 6-9pm; Thurs., Oct. 1, 6-9pm
Picnic with Purpose, Sat Oct 3, 10-1pm. For more information or to sign up, please call **Mindy Maslin,** (215) 988 8844.

Harvest Show Registration ..... Thurs., Sept. 19, 3:30-7pm & Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30-10am
Register at the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center, Horticulture Drive in the West Park. See Harvest Show insert this issue for details.

Harvest Party ..... Saturday, Sept. 19, 6-8:30pm
See Harvest Show insert for details on how to receive two free tickets to this good old fashioned fun party.

Harvest Show Open to the Public ..... Saturday, September 19 & Sunday, September 20, 10-5pm
The Children's tent is open from 11:00 - 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Composting Workshop ..... Saturday, Sept. 26, 10:30am
Join Penn State's Urban Gardening program at Liberty Lands Garden Park on 3rd Street, north of Poplar. **Free.** For more information, please call (215) 471-2224.

October

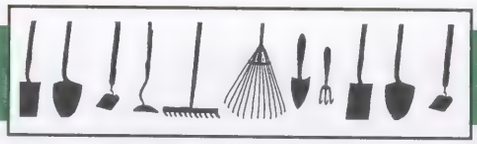
Tree Tenders Training for Teachers ..... Wed., Oct 21 & 28 4-7pm; Saturday, Oct 24, 10-1pm

November

Bike Ride of Trees ..... Sunday, November 8, 12pm
Meet at One Boathouse Row, Lloyd Hall. Helmets required. **Free**. Easy ride. For more information, please call **Mindy Maslin**, (215) 988-8844.

Watch future issues of PG News for updated fall calenders!

Habitat for Humanity Germantown Needs Landscaping Volunteers. Help Make the Community Beautiful! Call Roz or Shelly, (215) 849-9277.



to change the community, but with the energy and enthusiasm of the kids, that's what happened."

For more information or to participate next year, please call **(215) 225-3949**.

Named a Greene Countrie Towne by PG in the early eighties, the north Philadelphia neighborhood of **Francisville** has an active summer job program for teens from 14-19 years old. The program, sponsored by **First Union Bank,** is coordinated by **Una Vee Bruce,** president of the Francisville CDC and director of the neighborhood advisory council.

Over the past several summers, participating kids have created a wide variety of green parks and gardens in the neighborhood. They've also painted colorful murals and worked with PAL (Police Althletic League) on arts programs, tennis programs and reading programs.

This summer kids cleared debris from a demolished building, trash and overgrown vegetation from a large triangular site between 8th and Perkiomen and 18th and Poplar. Then they planted grass seeds, put up cyclone fencing and created a statue made of tile and glass for the new park. Boasted **Una Vee Bruce** "Without these kids the neighborhood would be filled with vacant lots." **Bonnie Morgan** of First Union added, "After the summer, kids can take pride and knowledge back to their schools. They have a renewed attitude toward their neighborhood because of their direct contribution."

For more information or to participate, please call **(215) 235-0333.**

The **Private Industry Council** summer job program sent 120 kids to **Iris Brown** and the **Norris Square Neighborhood Project** this summer. The kids cleaned the streets and park; removed graffitti; painted two murals and started three new gardens on Palethorp and Dauphin Streets near Las Parcelas. "Each garden reflects our Puerto Rican Heritage," said Iris. One of the three gardens is a beautifully designed sun with the seven colors of the rainbow. Instead of having a regular fence, hibiscus was planted in eight foot planters around the border. "These kids leave a part of themselves behind in the gardens and I want them to share their work with friends and family so the tradition will continue," added Iris.

For more information or to participate, please call **(215) 426-4631.**

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from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Use Rainwater To Nourish Your Plants

Folks from the Foulkrod Street Garden Create a Unique Above Ground Irrigation System

"When a neighbor gave us permission to use the rainwater from his roof for our vegetable garden, we went to work", said Wilson Jenkins, a gardener at the Foulkrod Street community garden in Northeast Philadelphia's Frankford neighborhood. Wilson and his friend Alfonso Gonzales came up with this inventive way to water their plants, using free water and few resources.

First, the two brought home recycled 55-gallon barrels given to them by a friend, some PVC hose and PVC glue. They put one barrel directly under their neighbor's roof gutter to catch rainwater. Then, they cut three-inch holes in each of the nine barrels. They glued hose lengths to the holes, linking together all of the barrels. As rain fills each barrel, the excess water flows through the attached hose into the next barrel.

"We have a back-up system," continued Wilson, "but we never use it because we never run out of water." The barrels are lined in a row next to garden plots so that gardeners can water their vegetables with ease.

Five years ago, the two got the neighborhood together to claim the once vacant lot as a site for their garden. Since then, they've created a vegetable garden, a basketball court and a flower garden.

In August, staff from Philadelphia Green helped them to organize the community and redesign their gardens. This spring they'll put in new raised beds and plant more vegetables. And, they'll continue to use their watering system. ■

Materials Needed:

As many large plastic barrels as you'll need to reach your garden plots; 3" PVC (plastic vinyl coating) piping and PVC glue; electric drill. You can find these at Home Depot or other home/hardware stores.

How-to:

1. Find a rooftop close to your garden that collects rainwater through a gutter system. Make sure the gutter leads from the roof and down the wall toward the ground.

3. Drill <u>one</u> 3" hole very close to the top of two barrels. These will be your beginning and end barrels. Drill <u>two</u> 3" holes, one on either side, on the top of the remaining barrels.

4. Glue lengths of PVC pipe to the holes to connect the barrels.

5. Wait for rain and watch your barrels fill with water! Scoop and water.

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Learn How To Fill Out a Youth Gardening Grant

This year, Philadelphia Green is offering a workshop to assist those wishing to apply for The National Gardening Association's Youth Gardening Grant. The workshop will be held on Thursday, October 22 from 4:00pm-6:00pm at PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th floor. Call Philadelphia Green staffer Sally McCabe, (215) 988-8846, for more information.

The Deadline for completed applications is November 15. Each grant is worth more than $750 and consists of quality tools, seeds, plants and garden products. For an application, please contact The National Garden Association, *www.garden.org*; or call 800-538-7476. ■

October is Mural Arts Month!

Don't miss activities for children and tours of murals across Philadelphia during this special month-long celebration.

Remember, your community may be eligible for a free mural! For information on how to request a mural in your neighborhood or to learn more about the celebration, please call the Mural Arts Program, (215) 686-8366 or (215) 985-1282.

Congratulations to Community Groups Selected to Help Create Permanent Works of Art Throughout Philadelphia

We are pleased to announce that six of the eighteen community groups selected to participate in The Fairmount Park Art Association's *New(Land(Marks*: *public art, community, and the meaning of place*, are Philadelphia Green partners. Twenty-three artists will work with these groups to create new permanent works of art to reflect the rich variety and cultural diversity in Philadelphia.

The Frankford Avenue Coalition, organized by the New Kensington Community Development Corporation, will work with artists Phoebe Adams and Daisy Fried to improve the streetscape on Frankford Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia.

Friends of Elmwood Park, comprised of neighbors whose homes border the Southwest Philadelphia park, will work with artist John Kindness to create a memorial celebrating the contributions of the working class.

Friends of Malcolm X Memorial Park, comprised of neighbors, teachers, and children from nearby Huey Elementary School, will work with artist Martha Jackson-Jarvis to re-establish their 78-acre park in West Philadelphia as a center for the community.

Friends of Gorgas Park, residents from Roxborough and Manayunk whose mission is to restore and recreate that 17-acre park, will work with landscape architect Ignacio Bunster-Ossa and sculptor Tyrone Mitchell to create a central civic green space for the community.

The Carroll Park Community Council and the Mill Creek Artists Collaborative will work with artist Rick Lowe at the West Philadelphia site.

Neighbors of Fairhill, neighborhood residents and members of local community organizations in the Fairhill area of North Philadelphia, will work with Jamie Suarez, an architect and ceramic artist living in San Juan, Puerto Rico to refurbish Fairhill Square Park. ■

Coming Up This Fall

October

Tree Tenders Training for Teachers .....
Wed., Oct 21 & 28 4-7pm; Saturday, Oct 24, 10-1pm
Registration limited. PHS, 100 North 20th Street, Phila, PA. For details, please call staffer Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

"Gardening Angels," Penn State Urban Gardening Program Volunteer Recognition Dinner .....
Wed, October 14, 5:00pm -8:00pm. Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park, Belmont Ave and Montgomery Drive. Potluck, please bring a dish. For more information, call (215) 471-2224.

25th Anniversary for the Norris Square Neighborhood Project..... Friday, October16, 6:00pm
Several hundred neighbors and friends will gather in Concilio's Hall at 7th and Fairmount, Philadelphia, PA to celebrate their victories and the people who made it possible. Natalie Kempner, as founder of NSNP, will be one of the main honorees. All are welcome. Reservations required. $25.00. Please call Sister Carol Keck at NSNP, (215) 426-4631

Parks in Progress Fall Training Conference..... Saturday, October 24, 9:00am - 4:00pm
Learn about volunteer recruitment, fundraising, outreach/media relations, park maintenance and more at this conference sponsored by PG's Parks Revitalization Project. For more information, please contact staffer Derrick McDonald, (215) 988-8869.

November

Regional Urban Greening Forum .....Friday, November 6, 9:00am - 5:30pm
PHS is coordinating this all day event dedicated to urban greening in cities and suburbs. The Forum will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia PA. For details, please call staffer Patricia Schrieber, (215) 988-8841.

Bike Ride of Trees ..... Sunday, November 8, 12pm
Meet at One Boathouse Row, Lloyd Hall. Helmets required. **Free**. Easy ride. For more information, please call staffer Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Be sure to check out the Fall and Winter Highlights calender, printed on page four of the *Treebune* (enclosed with this issue of PG News), for tree related workshops and activities. The Treebune is printed quarterly as a supplement to the PG News

From Fundraising to Scavaging

New Kensington Neighbors Make Emerald Gardens Grow

By Shannon Nec, Philadelphia Green project coordinator

I've only been with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for seven months; but I've quickly learned that a dedicated community makes my job a whole lot easier.

In New Kensington, working with Jerry Rhoads, an Emerald Street resident, Paul Malvey, Clean and Green Manager for the New Kensington CDC, and other neighbors, has shown me the strength and resources a united neighborhood has to offer.

At our first community meeting last spring, 14 people gathered one Saturday to discuss the future of a nearby vacant lot. From that day forward, their committment to succeed never slowed down.

Under Jerry's leadership, Emerald Gardens neighbors were determined to transform the lot into a garden. When PHS wasn't able to provide all of the money for cyclone fencing, the block decided to do some fundraising of their own: they held a lottery and wrote to local businesses for donations. They raised over $500 to pay for the other half of the fence. They even had money left over to start a bank account for the garden.

When Jerry sees that the garden could use some artistic improvement, he searches for items in the neighborhood to add to the garden. Recently, he hauled beautiful rocks from a demolished church over to the garden. Whenever concrete work, brick work or something of that nature has to be done, you can be sure that Jerry knows of a friend that can do it.

Like any garden, this is only the beginning. Over time the garden will grow and change. But one thing will remain the same–the dedication of neighbors of Emerald Gardens. ■

Edited by Lauri Alice Brunton
Printed on Recycled Paper

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The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
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Philadelphia Green News
from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Vol. 20 • No. 8 • November/December 1998

SOIL...WOODCHIPS...MULCH
WHERE AND HOW TO GET IT

by Mark Teller, PG Program Manager, and Eileen Gallagher, PG Project Manager

Many of you are aware that soil, woodchips, and mulch are delivered free of charge to our existing community gardeners. But have you ever wondered why the response time for delivery takes so long at certain times of the year? Here are some of the reasons, and new guidelines for quicker deliveries year round:

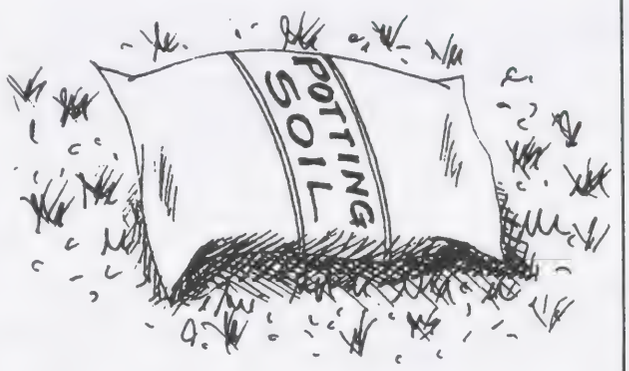
• Our programs continue to grow. As a result, more and more of you have requested deliveries. Last year alone we made almost 625 organic material deliveries, more than 4,000 cubic yards in all.

• Our crew can usually make 12 - 15 deliveries in a day. Some deliveries can take as much as two hours to complete.

• Make sure you call our **REQUEST LINE, (215) 988-8862**. Please listen carefully to the message and give the proper information. This helps with the time it takes to get the paperwork ready for delivery.

• Please give a second name and address for us to contact if you are not home when we call. This should be someone who is home between 9:00am and 5:00pm, and can be counted on to know about your request. Someone must be present on the delivery day to sign the work order.

• Keep the delivery area open so the truck can get to the site. Make sure all cars are moved.



• Make sure the person the delivery will be made to, has a key to open the garden. Our delivery crew cannot wait at the site for very long. They have other deliveries to make on that day.

• An exact address is very important. If you do not give the proper address, we will not have the project information in our records. Remember, we only make deliveries to our existing projects.

• Finally, provide such details as: If you live on a one-way street, let us know if the street is narrow or if the delivery is to be dropped on a sidewalk. If the street is difficult to find, please let us know what major intersection is near.

• Please look in upcoming Philadelphia Green newsletters for information on how to estimate the amount of soil and woodchips you'll need. ■

Clippings

PHS Certificate of Merit Awarded To Iris Brown and Tomasita Romera

The **Certificate of Merit** is awarded to an individual(s), organization, institution or business corporation for outstanding contributions to (or achievements in) horticulture or horticultural activities:

Iris Brown and **Tomasita Romero** have brought about dramatic transformation to Norris Square, North Philadelphia. Through trying times, they kept the vision of Norris Square as the first Hispanic Greene Countrie Towne, envisioning gardens as a way to honor Puerto Rican culture.

Here's a Holiday Gift to Inspire!

For children, teenagers, and adults, friends and family, order *A Place to Grow, Voices and Images of Urban Gardeners*, by David Hassler and Lynn Gregor, editors and Don Snyder, photographer, for this year's holiday gift.

Community gardeners share their own stories: what got them started, how their gardens have enriched their lives and nourished their communities, and the ways they see their gardens as places of contemplation and prayer. Beautiful photographs throughout.

Cost: $23.95/Paperback

To order, call: The Pilgrim Press, 1-800-537-3394.

Friends of Gorgas Park Raise $4,000

The Friends of Gorgas Park, in Manayunk, hosted hundreds of neighbors at their Harvest Festival this year. By selling mums, pumpkins, food (including two roast pigs), T-shirts, posters, rides, and scarecrow making, the Friends raised $4,000. Congratulations to such a wonderful fundraising effort.

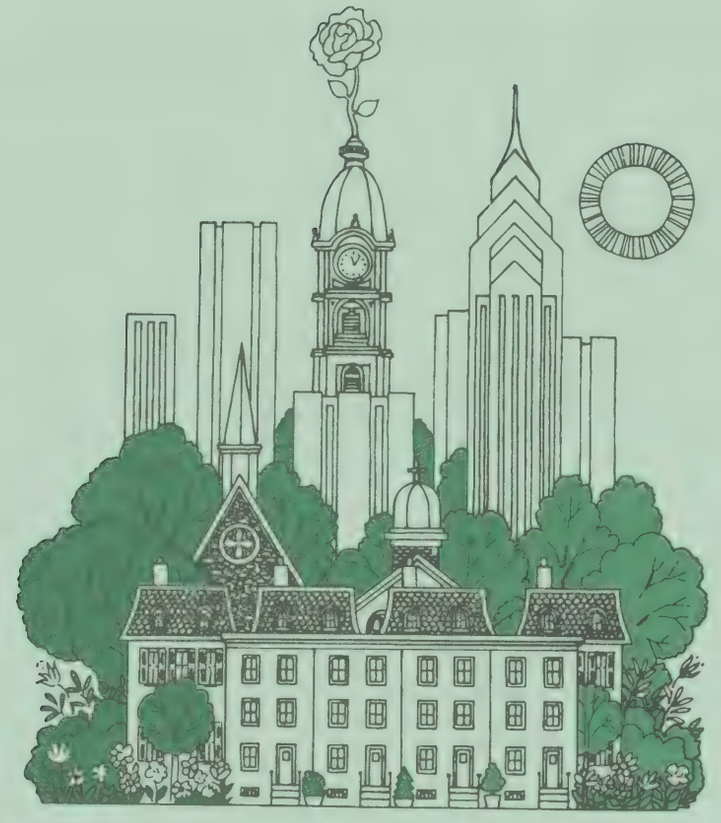
Fresh Fields Supermarket Staff Help Build Carroll Park Playground

Employees from Fresh Fields Supermarket, 20th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, donated a Saturday to dig footings for the new Carroll Park Playground, 58th and Girard Avenue. Volunteers like these keep Philadelphia Green projects growing. **(See full story on Carroll Park Playground, page 3.)** ■

Longtime *PHS & PG News* Editor Moves On

After nearly three years of dedicated work, Lauri A. Brunton—PHS Publications Associate and editor of *The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society News* and *Philadelphia Green* newsletters—will be leaving us in December to venture on towards new horizons. Long an advocate of land preservation and other environmental issues, she will be moving to Bucks County to begin earning a Masters degree in land preservation. Fortunately, Lauri will also continue to work as a freelance editor and writer, and plans to continue writing for our many PHS publications.

We congratulate her on her fine stewardship of our newsletters over the years and wish her the very best in the future. Readers interested in adding their good wishes can email Lauri at *lbrunton@pennhort.org* or write her: Lauri A. Brunton, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 N. 20th St., Phila., PA 19103.



1998 City Gardens Contest Winners

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S GARDENS

3rd **Meredith Public School**

3rd **Bache-Martin School**
Rosemarie D'Alba-Cipriano & Kids

3rd **Rainbow Park for Wee Green Thumbs**, Sister Grace West & Kids

2nd **Raices**
Iris Brown & Kids

2nd **Project Rainbow**
Sister Diana Cerchio & Kids

2nd **2600 E. Dauphin Street**
Regina Clark & Kids

1st **Vare Middle School**
Larry Stier & Kids

COMMUNITY COMBINATION GARDENS - 1st Year

3rd **Village of Arts & Humanities - Family Farm**, Heidi Warren & Neighbors

2nd **Monastery Stables - Kitchens Lane,** Jodi Jaffe & Nancy McHugh & Neighbors

1st **Eugene E. Smith Memorial Award/Ella Francis**
James Stanley & Neighbors

COMMUNITY COMBINATION GARDENS - Small

3rd 1800 E. Oakdale Street
Mary Beth Appel & Neighbors

2nd 2600 E. Dauphin Street
Regina Clark & Neighbors

2nd Kimball Street Community Garden
Carla Puppin & Neighbors

1st Fitzwater 2000 Community Garden
Stephen Maciejewski & Neighbors

1st 1033 - 37 S. 6th Street
Rochelle Manfra & Neighbors

COMMUNITY COMBINATION GARDENS - Mid-Size

3rd **Garden Run**
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Daly & Neighbors

2nd **Las Parcelas**
Iris Brown & Neighbors

2nd **1622-26 West Page Street**
Ellouise Newkirk & Neighbors

1st **619 Catharine Street**
Vincent Carnuccio & Neighbors

COMMUNITY COMBINATION GARDENS - Large

3rd **Garden of Eatin'**
Alta Felton & Neighbors

2nd **Aspen Farms**
Hayward Ford & Neighbors

1st **55th Street & Baltimore Avenue**
Carrie B. Bush & Neighbors

COMMUNITY COMBINATION GARDENS - Very Large

3rd **Glenwood Green Acres**
James Taylor & Neighbors

2nd **Schuylkill River Park**
Community Gardens

1st **The Spring Garden**
Stephan & Kit White & Neighbors

COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDENS - Small

3rd **St. Simon's Church**
Golde A. Fitzpatrick & Neighbors

3rd **25th & Tasker Streets**
Josephine Jackson & Neighbors

2nd **Stillman & Parrish Streets**
Jane Gourley & Neighbors

2nd **Bailey & Parrish Streets**
John Gourley & Neighbors

1st **1501 Montrose Street**
Marion Barnes & Neighbors

COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDENS - Mid-Size

3rd **Village of Arts & Humanities - Magical Garden**
Heidi Warren & Neighbors

2nd **Spring Street Community Garden,** Kathryn Keeler & Pat West & Neighbors

2nd **56th & Chester Avenue**
Doreen Waller & Neighbors

1st **1821 Plum Street**
Renee Fletcher & Neighbors

COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDENS - Large

3rd **Awbury Arboretum Cope House**
Thomas Manna & Linda Dickerson & Neighbors

2nd **7111-13 Cresheim Road**
Florence Garrett & Neighbors

2nd **Unitarian Universalist House**
George Craddock & Hank Penning & Neighbors

1st **52nd & Columbia Avenue**
James Stanley & Neighbors

COMMUNITY GARDEN BLOCKS

3rd **2100 Block of Wharton Street**
Theresa McCormick & Neighbors

3rd **1900 Block of Pemberton Avenue**
Jeff Tober & Neighbors

2nd **1500 Block E. Berks Street**
Paula Hudy & Neighbors

2nd **2200 Block of Emerald Street**
Maria Ramos & Neighbors

1st **Unit Block North Dewey Street**
Phyllis Wade & Neighbors

GREENEST BLOCK IN TOWN

3rd **6000 Block of Webster Street**
Richenetta L. Roberts & Neighbors

2nd **3500 Block of N. 24th Street**
Obediah J. Foster & Neighbors

2nd **6100 Block of Washingington Ave.**
Donna Sims & Laura Williams & Neighbors

1st **6200 Block of Ellsworth Street**
John Steptoe & Neighbors

COMMUNITY PARKS

3rd **Cianfrani Park**
Dennis McGlade & Neighbors

3rd **Elmwood Park**
Len Pannirello & Neighbors

2nd **Carroll Park**
Lillie Gorham & Neighbors

2nd **Wissinoming Park**
Carol Naylor & Neighbors

1st **Gorgas Park**
John Boyce & Neighbors

COMMUNITY TREE LABS

3rd **Harding Middle School**
Carol Vanagitis & Kids

2nd **Meade School**
Ellen Lube & Kids

1st **J.H. Brown School**
Michael Weiss & Kids

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDENS - Small

2nd **901-03 N. Orianna Street**
Steve Preiss & Neighbors

1st **SOMAD**
Naomi B. Adams & Neighbors

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDENS - Mid-Size

3rd **28th & Cambria Streets**
Annie D. Hyman & Neighbors

3rd **Seedy Acres**
Sally McCabe & Neighbors

2nd **1204-13 S. 26th Street**
Cynthia Anderson & Neighbors

2nd **The Southerners**
Josephine Speights & Neighbors

1st **1933 - 1943 N. 31st Street**
Maron Faison & Neighbors

1st **1720-28 &30 West Fontain Street**
Mary Robinson/Patricia Smalls & Neighbors

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDENS - Large

3rd **Liberty Lands**
Mary Serrano & Neighbors

2nd **25th & Tasker Streets**
Josephine Jackson & Neighbors

2nd **1500 Gray's Ferry Ave.**
Gladys Davis & Neighbors

1st **Southwark Queen Village**
Jed Campbell & Neighbors

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED/SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT GARDENS

1st **Ralston Garden for the Physically Challenged,** Beverly Agard & Residents

1st **Patricia Sikorsky**

Congratulations to Winners for a Wonderful Gardening Season

Volunteers Gather Forces to Build a New Playground at Carroll Park

by Jeff Tober, PG Program Coordinator

Members of the Iron Workers Local 401 pour cement into the footings of the New Carroll Park Playground.

In April of this year, the Carroll Park neighbors were faced with a choice–have the Department of Recreation install a childrens' play area in Carroll Park (58th and Girard Avenue) or organize volunteers to do the job.

They unanimously chose the latter, and decided to turn work into celebration.That was six months ago.

On Saturday, October 10th, Carroll Park became home to two new tot-lots and a swing set. Because of the hard work of so many people, the day went off without a hitch.

Members of the Iron Workers Local 401 were in the park before sunrise with Playground Environments representatives unloading the play equipment. The Department of Recreation soon arrived with their portable "show-mobile." From that stage, State Representative Louise Williams Bishop officially started the day with a welcome and blessing.

Droves of volunteers arrived to build the playground, and attend to the parks' greenery. By noon, all T-shirts had been handed out, every tool was in use, and the cement truck was pouring the footings (generously dug by employees from Fresh Fields Whole Foods Market the day before) for the completed play area!

Councilman Michael Nutter read a letter from Recreation Commissioner Michael DiBerardinis, and raised the park's flag to dedicate the playground.

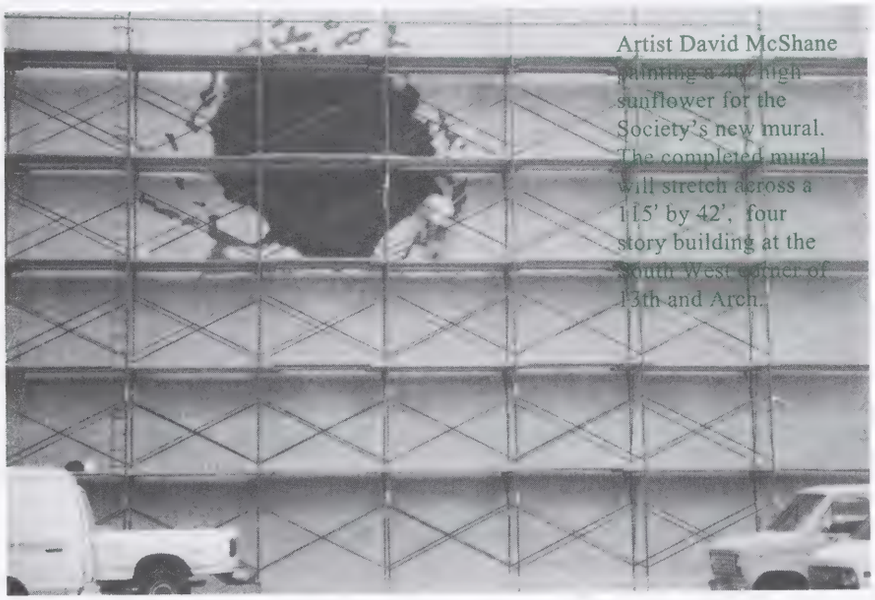
A young Carroll Park neighbor test runs the slide to be installed into the playground. All Systems go!

Volunteers enjoyed a free lunch provided (and cooked!) by employees from Mercy Hospital, and Odwalla Juice Company. All were entertained by the Bill Booker Jazz Trio, members of the Umoja Steppers & Drum Corps, and Steppin' in the Light.

A very special thank you to Councilman Nutter, who has supported our efforts from the beginning of this project . . .
Bertha Parker, Carroll Park Neighbors

The Carroll Park Neighbors are thrilled to have something for the many families in their neighborhood. They offer thanks to everyone who helped make this special day a reality: Please Touch Museum, Network Arts Philadelphia, Carroll Park Community Council, Coca Cola, Friends of Mifflin Square, Students from Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania, the Nineteenth Police District, and all of the members from the community whose hard work and spirit will long be reflected in the playground!

NEW PHS MURAL WILL DAZZLE CORNER OF 13TH AND ARCH



Artist David McShane painting a 40' high sunflower for the Society's new mural. The completed mural will stretch across a 115' by 42', four story building at the South West corner of 13th and Arch.

It's one of the last great walls in all of Philadelphia," said Jane Golden, Artistic Director for the Mural Arts Program, of the wall at 13th and Arch. "Its proximity to the Pennsylvania Convention Center, home of the Philadelphia Flower Show, makes it a perfect wall for PHS. And, since the wall is part of a historic building; it will be a protected site for many years."

Jane approached PHS in the summer of 1997 with a great idea: she wanted to celebrate collaborations with PHS by painting a mural for us. The Mural Arts program began in the eighties, since then they've painted many, many murals for PHS's Philadelphia Green (PG) sites. They've also worked on PG's Philadelphia Flower Show exhibit, recreating portions of these murals.

The new PHS mural has received generous funding from the Independenence Foundation, which has helped fund PHS's Philadelphia Green programs since 1993.

"The range of artists that applied, from portrait artists to landscape painters, was wonderful," said Anne Vallery, PHS Creative Services Coordinator and a member of the artist-selection panel for this mural. The winner was David McShane.

"What made David stand out was that he came to us with a unique concept for the mural right away; he was very passionate and enthusiastic," continued Anne.

David's idea simple, lush and colorful will make the wall at 13th and Arch Street a landmark spot for visitors to Philadelphia.

"I chose to create life-like plant portraits and use the subject in a unique way," said David. "I think the sunflower is a king of flowers, so I'm painting him with his leaves stretched out like a person."

A giant tomato is a vegetable every gardener grows, and will add bright, rich red to the mural. The daisies have a wonderful child-like quality. "My point is to surprise people with the vibrant colors and shapes of the plants, in contrast to the city streets. I want to draw them into the mural and to PHS."continued David thoughtfully.

David graduated with a BA in Biology from LaSalle University, and an MFA in painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

To paint the mural, David will use 32 gallons of special ordered exterior acrylic latex paint. Prepping for the painting included photographing the wall, scaling out the mural drawing on paper, priming the wall, then chalking on hundreds of two by two foot squares with segments of the drawing. "It's the puzzle approach," David added, with a grinning, paint-splotched face.

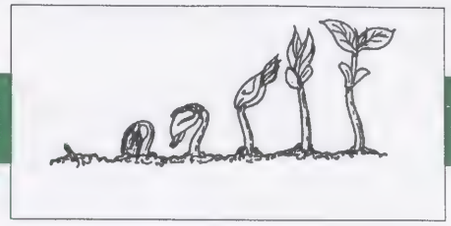
"I'll get some people from the Mural Arts program out here to help me paint out the drawing. Jane would like to be among the helpers," he continued.

Notes Lisa Stephano, PHS Marketing and Public Relations Manager, "The goal of the mural is to motivate people and this artist has achieved that goal through his rendering." She continued, "What a beautiful way for us to express our mission as an organization. People will look at this mural from the street and be moved by the beauty of art and nature."

Added Blaine Bonham, PHS Executive Vice President, " This mural is a tremendous opportunity to increase PHS's visibility in Center City. Given our new mission *the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture* it allows us to highlight our new initiatives."

To see the mural going up, and to see David in action, visit the site at 13th and Arch Street. David will be the person braving the scaffolding, paint brush in hand. ■

Coming Up This Fall & Winter



November

Regional Urban Greening Forum ..... Friday, November 6, 9:00am - 5:30pm
PHS is coordinating this all-day event dedicated to urban greening in cities and suburbs. The Forum will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia PA. For details, please call staffer Patricia Schrieber, (215) 988-8841.

Bike ride/Tree tour ..... Sunday, November 8, Noon
Meet at One Boathouse Row, Lloyd Hall. Helmets required. **Free**. Easy ride. For more information, please call staffer Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Philadelphia Green's Party for the Parks ..... Wednesday, November 11, 5:30pm
The celebration, held at PHS headquarters (20th and Arch Street) will include a reception, Volunteer of the Year awards, guest speaker, Charles McKinney (Administrator of Riverside Park in New York City), and a ceremony honoring the original parks of PG's Parks Revitalization Project. If you would like to attend, please call PG staffer Marcy BonDurant, PG Project Manager, (215) 988- 8887.

Brown Bag Lunch "No Shrinking Violets" ..... Thursday, November 12, Noon
PHS headquarters, 100 North 20th Street, 5th floor. Judi Criswell will share the secrets of growing violets.Learn how create a windowsill full of blooms. **Free.** To reserve a space, please call Sally Kutyla, (215) 988-8775.

Volunteer at the 1999 Philadelphia Flower Show

Join us at the Pennsylvania Convention Center as a behind-the-scenes volunteer from March 5 - March 12, 1999. If you would like to help, check the roles that interest you and return this form to PHS.

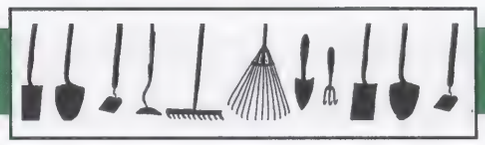
- ❑ **Exhibitor Aides** - Help exhibitors transport plants from D Hall to freight elevator and to entry area. Entry level job.
- ❑ **Runners** - Carry cards for corrections to and from typing table. Entry level job.
- ❑ **Recorders** - Log information for a plant's entry into the Show. Attention to detail and an ability to keep calm under pressure required.

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____
City, State, ZIP Phone (Day)

Please return to: Marge Meer, 100 N. 20th Street-5th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 by **Dec. 1, 1998.** We will contact you with more information.



The Wagner Free Institute of Science Presents Two Free 12-Week Courses

PHS and the Wagner Free Institute of Science have come together again to co-sponsor two free 12-week courses. Both will be held at the PHS offices, 100 North 20th Street, 5th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. The courses, **Concepts of Plant Ecology** and **Plant Pest Control**, are free and open to the public. Owing to space limitations, however, these courses require pre-registration. To pre-register, please call (215) 763-6529, ext. 23. When you pre-register, ask for a catalog or a reading list.

Plant Pest Control

Monday, January 25 - Monday, March 1, 1999. 7:00pm - 8:15pm

One of the constant problems faced by gardeners, horticulturists, and agriculturalists is the occurence of plant pests. Viruses, bacteria, fungi, insects, and other plants work to defeat our best efforts to grow plants that are healthy and produce to maximum levels.

In this lecture series, Professor John R. Porter, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Sciences, will show how to integrate pest management through use of biological and chemical controls. He'll consider new chemical and biological pesticides with high specificity and low environmental impact.

Concepts of Plant Ecology

Monday, March 20 - Monday, May 3, 1999. 7:00pm - 8:15pm

This course, also taught by Professor John R. Porter, will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00pm- 8:15pm, March 29th - May 3rd.

How do plants interact with the biological and abiological factors in the environment? In this lecture series, Professor Porter will cover such topics as populations and communities, plant succession, bio-geographic provinces and others. ■

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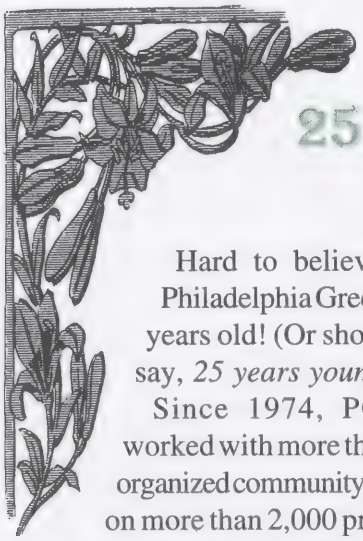
PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.



25 YEARS ON THE VINE

Hard to believe, but Philadelphia Green is 25 years old! (Or should we say, *25 years young*.)

Since 1974, PG has worked with more than 700 organized community groups on more than 2,000 projects, providing construction materials, technical assistance, and horticultural education. And with the *Urban Vacant Land* report completed in 1995, PG has started to implement its neighborhood-based approach to the development of vacant land. Because of the positive impact and benefits of PG's city-wide greening, parks revitalization, and outreach projects, it's no wonder that when PG talks, people listen.

"It's had a ripple effect on the neighborhood," said Hayward Ford, one of the founders of Aspen Farms at 44th and Aspen in the Mill Creek neighborhood of Philadelphia. "With the garden at the center of the community, people have taken more pride in their environment. When gardens look good, people start to care how their homes look, and before you know it, the block looks good."

Tom Lederer, who lives on 2nd Street above Girard Avenue and has been involved with PG for more than 10 years, noted "When I originally went to PG to try and fix up our old neighborhood, they taught us how to grow and plant. Not only did they help us initially with the cleaning, but they've stayed with us all the way through. Unlike most organizations, PG had the foresight to stay and help us revitalize our neighborhood. Before PG, we were playing catch up, but now, we're getting ahead."

For some Philadelphia Green is as much a Philadelphia landmark as the Liberty Bell. And with its upcoming 25th birthday, we'd like to thank all our friends who have made Philadelphia the green envy of other cities. ■

Tell Us What you Think

More how-to tips? More features? Is the layout pleasing to you?

These are some of the questions we'll be asking you in our March readers' survey to help serve you better. Keep an eye out for it in our next issue. Remember—we value your input.

Philadelphia Green at the 1999 Philadelphia Flower Show

This year's Philadelphia Green exhibit highlights the 25 years of success that Philadelphia Green has enjoyed in its efforts to build communities and rehabilitate the urban environment. By showing the process involved in turning abandoned urban land into healthy green gardens, streets, and parks, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society hopes to motivate people to improve their quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

These transformations can be seen in many of the city's communities and public green spaces with neighborhoods, volunteers, corporations, and agencies all pitching in. Because of the positive impact PG has had on our city, it's become the model urban greening program in the country.

The thousands who attend the Society's Philadelphia Flower Show will also be contributing to the city's greening efforts, since the Show's proceeds provide the funding base for Philadelphia Green.

Come see us March and join in on our 25th anniversary celebration!

The Flower Show runs from March 7-14, 1999, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. For more information, call: (215) 988-8899 or visit our website: *www.libertynet.org/flowrsho/*

In The News

Start Up of Soil and Woodchip Deliveries

We have revised our request system for soil and woodchip deliveries. Starting with the spring 1999 deliveries, we will no longer deliver soil or woodchips in the street, on sidewalks, or pavements. All deliveries must be made inside the garden, and will be prioritized by garden type and in the order the request is received.

•Spring - March & April
First priority will be vegetable gardeners requesting soil. All other requests from gardeners will be handled in the order received.

•Summer - July to Mid-September
This is the best time for sitting gardens and tree lots to request deliveries of soil and woodchips.

•Fall - October & November
Request for mulch and woodchips will be delivered at this time. Post-harvest requests for soil will be delivered from late October through November.

Over the winter, we will be working on solutions for gardens that do not have a delivery gate, and looking at creative ways to redesign older gardens to enable delivery of organic materials to our gardeners.

Our last deliveries were made in December. We start making deliveries again after the Flower Show in early April.

Please remember: all requests for deliveries come through the **Request Line, (215) 988-8862**.

Guest Speaker on Urban Agriculture

Michael Ableman, author of *On Good Land: The Autobiography of an Urban Farm*, will give a slide presentation on the successes and disappointments of building a community farm on Tuesday, February 2, 1999, at 3:00 pm in the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society auditorium. Michael will have books to sell and sign at the end of his talk.

The event is sponsored by the Inner City Growers Association, a new Philadelphia-based organization working on practical ways to further commercial urban agriculture.

Later in the evening, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, Michael will be the honored guest at a reception to benefit the efforts of the Inner City Growers Association. Jack's Firehouse, 2130 Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia, has generously donated their space and hors d'oeuvres for this cash bar event. Tickets are $15 reserved in advance. For reservations, please contact Suzanne Milshaw, (215) 569-4129.

Come Join Us As A Flower Show Volunteer

How would you like to be a volunteer and help make the Flower Show a success again this year? We're looking for a few good volunteers to assist with moving supplies for flower arrangers, monitoring the rooms for lectures, and setting and cleaning up for studio demonstrations on the Show floor.

If you are interested in volunteering for Lectures/Demonstrations, call staffer Eileen Gallagher, (215) 988-8880, or for the Gardener's Studio, call staffer Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Philadelphia Green Brunch

Join us for Brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show in the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Start your day on **Sunday, March 14th** with a sumptuous brunch, tour the Flower Show, attend Lectures/Demonstrations, shop the Marketplace.

Watch for invitations in the mail or call staffer Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897.

A limited number of tickets are available. Make your reservations early.

Cost is $25 and includes a ticket for admission to the Flower Show.

A Breath of Fresh Air For The People of Port Richmond

By Judy Heany, PG Field Services Rep

Thanks to the Port Richmond Business Association, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and Philadelphia Green (PG), the people of Port Richmond had a little more to be thankful for this past Thanksgiving.

Since last March, PG has planted 500 trees with community volunteers. The newly planted trees can be found between Richmond Street and Frankford Avenue, and Lehigh and Castor Avenues, as well as in open spaces (mainly parks along the Delaware River). Trees not only beautify communities, but also filter pollution from the air. This is especially important in the highly industrial, traffic-congested area of Port Richmond where, just recently, the EPA fined Conrail for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act.

From the beginning, the response from the community was overwhelming. "Good things definitely came out of this," said Diane Cumberland, one of several volunteers whose time and dedication made all the difference. "The day of the tree planting, people who never talked to each other came out to help. It truly brought people together."

"These days, people go to work, come home, and don't really get a chance to stop and talk. But tree planting on the block gets everyone outside and lets them socialize," added Jackie Saier, who went door-to-door to organize her community tree planting.

By providing the know-how, PG gives people the tools for maintaining their own neighborhoods in the future. ■

Three Cheers For the Park Patrol

By Derrick McDonald, PG Field Services Rep

Because of its unkempt grounds, many in the past have stayed away from Malcolm X Memorial Park. Today, it's swarming with people, young and old. Located on 52nd and Pine Streets in a crowded part of West Philadelphia, it's become a favorite spot for community dwellers. And that's how the Friends of Malcolm X Memorial Park like it. But heavy use requires frequent maintenance.

Students from Huey Elementary School pitching in to keep Malcolm X Memorial Park a clean and safe place. All in the name of fun.

Enter the Malcolm X Park Patrol, a group of 25 very enthusiastic students from Huey Elementary School which sits across the street from the park. Every Thursday, students don their Park Patrol T-shirts with one mission—to clean up the park and have fun doing it. Under the direction of science teacher Kate Loal, the Park Patrollers have been making a remarkable difference. They've filled the park's new composter with leaves (imagine raking a 6-acre lawn with more than 140 trees!), planted bulbs, picked up trash, swept walkways, painted over graffiti, and surveyed the park's benches and fence line for necessary repairs.

Not only are the kids doing a good thing, but they're also having fun doing it. "The kids love it. They are incredibly involved with the park. And it makes everyone happy when they see how the park beautifies the area," said Kate enthusiastically. Not only is the park adding green to the community, but it's also a positive safe place where kids can go to let off steam.

"The whole idea of the Park Patrol began as a way to get the kids involved after school, but it's turned into something more than just helping the kids stay out of trouble. We've begun to give out certificates to reward those who are in the Park Patrol, so it's a real honor for them," continued Kate. "And by working alongside with Derrick McDonald and David Michael, PG's own field services reps, the kids have really taken to them as role models."

For their energy, hard work, and devotion to their park, we salute the Park Patrol! ■

Houseplants and Light

By Lauri Brunton and Erin Fournier

Often, it isn't until we are knee deep in snow and ice that we realize how much we miss the lush green of our gardens. Houseplants may not be as satisfying to grow as a whole plot of vegetables or flowers, but they are a refreshing spot of green in the midst of dark winter. They keep spring alive—not to mention chase away winter blues—while ice and snow storms rage outside.

Here are a few suggestions for choosing and placing houseplants in your home or office. When picking out the perfect plant for a room you need to consider these factors.

Light is very important when growing indoors, since plants need light to survive. They turn light into food and energy. Light indoors is affected by many things.

The season affects the intensity of the light. During the summer, sunlight is brightest and as winter approaches, the light becomes less bright because the angle of the sun's rays changes. The hours of sunlight also change. Summer days have 14 to 16 hours of light while winter days have an average of eight.

The direction your window faces determines the amount or type of light your plants receive. Southern windows get the brightest light for the longest periods. And northern windows receive light throughout the day, but it's considerably weaker. East-facing windows receive morning sun and west windows the warmer afternoon light.

When placing a plant in a room, you need to consider carefully how much light the plant will actually receive. Without enough light to produce food a plant will starve; and within a few weeks you'll have a sickly looking plant. You can gauge the light in your spot with these simple clues. If you have **low light** there is barely enough light to read, even near the window. **Medium light** is a few feet back from a window. If you have **bright light**, you have a great deal of sunlight within five feet of the window, but no direct sun; you don't feel its warmth on your skin. **Direct sun** warms your skin and the light is so bright you have to squint to see.

If you have poor light or want to grow plants far from a window (8-10 feet): you need to use artificial lighting. Fluorescent light is most suitable, since ordinary incandescent bulbs get too hot and give off the wrong color light for plants to use. Fluorescent tubes can be mounted under a reflector and suspended over the plants, or single bulbs can be placed in a regular lamp and directed towards the plant. The light should be 6 to 12 inches above a flowering plant and 12 to 24 inches above foliage plants. Houseplants that do especially well under lights are African violets, begonias, coleus, bromeliads, and orchids.

If fluorescent light seems like too much trouble. Make sure you match the plant to the light condition of the room. If you place a plant in a place where it doesn't get the right light, it will wither.

Try these plants for low light: *Cissus, Epipremnum, Aglaonema, Cattelaya*, or *Sanseverias*. Consider these for medium light conditions: *Draceana, Philodendron, Calathea, Aglaonema*, or a Prayer Plant. These will thrive in bright light: Ivy, Wandering Jew, Spider plant, or a *Caladium*. In full sun scented geraniums, *Dieffenbachia, Ficus, Begonia*, and any type of cactus will do well.

Just a few tips: plants with variegated (white and green) leaves show more color when given brighter light. Flowering plants need at least some direct sun, and cactus and succulents need the brightest full sun you can give them.

Following these few tips should keep indoor plants healthy. Enjoy your little spot of green until spring finds its way once again to Pennsylvania. ■

Edited by Pamela Q. Vu
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Philadelphia Green News

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Remembering Rena

A Lasting Tribute To A Philadelphia Green Visionary

TREE PEST ALERT!
See page 3 inside for details

Everyone who ever met Rena Ennis says she was not someone easily forgotten. From the time her commitment to urban greening began in 1958 to the time of her passing in June, 1997, this life member of PHS worked tirelessly, willingly, and passionately in support of Philadelphia Green's ideals of community greening. The newly completed "Remembering Rena" mural in Malcolm X Memorial Park immortalizes Rena's spirit and pays tribute to her work as volunteer extraordinaire.

Her legacy includes many community gardens she helped to start and run: the Garden of Eatin' at 25th and Dickinson, gardens at 10th and Diamond, 26th and Reed, and 51st and Pine. She also formed the Friends of Black Oak Park (which is located across from her home), adopted a class at the Huey Elementary School, and maintained a long, fruitful association with the Penn State Urban Gardening Program.

The "Remembering Rena" mural now adorns the Malcolm X Memorial Park at 51st and Pine Streets.

In nominating Rena as a recipient of the Society's Certificate of Merit in 1997, Blaine Bonham, Jr, PHS's executive vice president, noted, "Rena Ennis has exemplified the kind of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer who makes our work gratifying and fun. Her reach goes far beyond her home community."

While this nomination validated what others already knew about Rena, she represented more than just ideals. She was a friend, gardener, community leader, and advocate, as well as a teacher who cared enough about her neighborhood to do something about it. Rena once said, "To get something done, you just have to find a way to do it." And find a way she did, devoting more than 35 years to the city's gardens and to the people who tend them.

"Rena introduced me to Philadelphia Green," said science teacher Kate Loal fondly. "She also taught me to continue to fight for the things that I believed in. Most of all, she deeply appreciated what I was doing with my students at Huey Elementary School. I called her 'Mom,' because that was who she was to me."

Through a $30,000 grant from the William Penn Foundation and the Friends of Malcolm X Memorial Park, along with funds from the Junior League and PHS's Rena Ennis Fund, the "Remembering Rena" mural was recently completed and now adorns the Malcolm X Memorial Park. A portrait of Rena is at the center of a beautiful floral frame, surrounded by scenes of community workers planting, growing, and enjoying themselves. "The mural is a fitting tribute and a symbol that her work in the community will continue," says staffer Jeff Tober. "It also serves as a reminder of how far this park has come from its graffiti-laden days. Thanks to her vision, it's now a hub of vibrant community life."

The Friends of Malcolm X Memorial Park and Philadelphia Green will honor Rena and celebrate her life in a ceremony on Friday, April 16, 3:00pm, at Malcolm X Memorial Park, 51st and Pine Streets. The ceremony will include the mural dedication and remarks by Bonham and PHS president Jane Pepper, and is open to the public. A reception follows. ■

—By Pamela Vu

Have A Voice!

Fill out our Readers' Survey inside

Tell us how you feel about *Philadelphia Green News* from the layout to content. Take a moment to help us serve you better.

In The News

Philadelphia Green Receives $1 Million For City Parks!

The merry sounds of children laughing and communities coming together in our city's neighborhood parks have caught the attention of the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund which seeks to enhance the cultural life of communities, and make the arts and culture an active part of everyday lives through support of programs in the performing, visual, literary and folk arts, adult literacy, and urban parks.

The Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund recently awarded Philadelphia Green (PG) a $1 million implementation grant over four years to continue work under PG's Parks Revitalization Project (initiated in 1993 through a grant from the William Penn Foundation). Funding will go towards park improvements, training workshops, organization development, and building lasting partnerships.

"It's no accident that a handful of Philadelphia's neighborhood parks have emerged from the city landscape as vibrant hubs of community life and sources of neighborhood pride," said Commissioner Michael DiBerardinis. "This collaborative spirit among community groups, Philadelphia Green, the Department of Recreation, and funders will greatly expand the work to reclaim parks as centers of community life."

With the city's Department of Recreation leading the way, community groups, city agencies, non-profits, community-based organizations, and neighborhood businesses have all begun to give time and support to local park revitalization. This, in turn, has allowed Philadelphia Green to pursue efforts to find matching funds to support and build partnerships vital to the future of our neighborhood parks.

So next time you see a dash of green in the landscape, you might be surprised to find out that you're not in suburbia anymore. No, that vernal spot of public space may actually be one of Philadelphia's very own city parks.

Soil and Woodchip Delivery Changes

•Do you have a delivery gate that is less than 10-feet wide?

•Do you have cyclone fencing, but no delivery gate; or turkey wire fencing with a delivery opening of less than 10 feet?

•Do you have a 10-feet wide delivery gate or opening, but no delivery area within the garden?

If any of these apply to you, then you will need to call our **Request Line, (215) 988-8862** to make special delivery arrangements. Leave specific information along with your request.

We have revised our request system for soil and woodchip deliveries. Starting late March, we will no longer deliver soil or woodchips in the street, or on sidewalks or pavements. All deliveries must be made inside the garden, and will be prioritized by garden type and in the order the request is received.

•SPRING - March & April
First priority will be vegetable gardeners requesting soil. All other requests from gardeners will be handled in the order received.

•SUMMER - July to Mid-September
This is the best time for sitting gardens and tree lots to request deliveries of soil and woodchips.

•FALL - October & November
Request for mulch and woodchips will be delivered at this time. Post-harvest requests for soil will be delivered from late October through November.

Please remember: all requests for deliveries come through the **Request Line, (215) 988-8862**.

Upstream/Downstream: Connecting Land and Water

The City Parks Association's Regional Parks Institute will hold a two-day symposium, March 26 and 27, entitled "*Upstream/Downstream: Connecting Land and Water*" to explore the important connections between land and water management.

The symposium to be held at the Trinity Center for Urban Life, 22nd and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, is expected to draw more than 100 representatives from our region's environmental organizations, as well as community members and park volunteers and activists. The program will include lively panel discussions with experts in the field, and showcase innovative solutions developed to target storm-water and other water-management problems.

A Friday evening reception is planned, along with a hands-on exhibit illustrating activities in the Philadelphia area.

The Regional Parks Institute is a volunteer activity of the City Parks Association. Contact Kathy Klein, (800) 445-4935, for more information.

Get Out The Vote

With the upcoming changes in Philadelphia's political leadership, The Friends of Philadelphia Parks have invited candidates to participate in a **Mayoral Candidates' Forum** on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, 7:00-9:00pm, in the auditorium of the Central Library (Logan Square, 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia). Candidates will be asked to address park and open space issues, as well as funding. Come and speak out on behalf of our parks. Call (215) 879-8159 for information.

Philadelphia Green Community Gardeners' Plant Sale Saturday, May 1

Philadelphia Green's annual spring garden sale will be held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. You'll be able to purchase annual and vegetable plants at discount prices. ***You can take advantage of low prices only if your group pre-orders***. Watch for order forms in the mail. If you haven't received yours by April 1st, please call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Do you work outside the home?

❒ Full-time ❒ Part-time ❒ Not at all

What is your marital status?

❒ Single ❒ Married

❒ Partnered/Significant other ❒ Widowed

Do you use the Internet at home, at work, or somewhere else? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Do you work with children, other than your own, in your community? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Do you have children in your household?

Under the age of 3? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Between 3 and 12? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Over 12 and less than 18? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Your level of education:

Less than high school degree ❒

High school degree ❒

Technical school beyond high school ❒

Some college ❒

Graduated college (BA, BS) ❒

Attended Graduate or Professional School ❒

Affiliation with Philadelphia Green (PG):
Check all that apply.

Community Greening leader ❒

Neighborhood-based organization leader ❒

PG or PHS volunteer ❒

Funder for PG ❒

Staff of other non-profit ❒

Please include your Zip Code _____

Please fold this page on the dotted lines, seal with tape, and drop in the mailbox as soon as possible.

Thank You

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Readers' Survey

Dear Friend of Philadelphia Green,

Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed Readers' Survey for the *Philadelphia Green News.* With the newsletter designed for readers like you, it's important that the *News* reflects your concerns as an interested Philadelphia Green gardener and/or supporter.

Your completed survey will greatly aid us in our efforts to give you the best publication to suit your needs. There is no cost to mail this back to us, and your feedback would be very helpful.

Sincerely,

J. Blaine Bonham Jr.

Blaine Bonham
Executive Vice President

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS INFORMATION

Do you always, sometimes, rarely or never read each issue of the *Philadelphia Green News*?

❒ Always ❒ Sometimes ❒ Rarely ❒ Never

Do you read *Philadelphia Green News:*

❒ Completely ❒ Part of it ❒ Not at all

How many others (family, friends, etc.) read your issue of *Philadelphia Green News*?_____

How would you evaluate *Philadelphia Green News* in terms of:

How <u>often</u> the newsletter is sent?

❒ Too often

❒ About right

❒ Not often enough

The <u>value</u> of the newsletter content?

❒ Excellent

❒ Good

❒ Satisfactory

❒ Poor

Currently, *Philadelphia Green News* is published nine (9) times per year. Would you prefer it to be published less often, say six (6) times per year, but with more pages?

❒ Yes ❒ No

What types of stories or articles would you like to see more often in *Philadelphia Green News*? _____

_____

Do you find the *News* and its layout:

❒ Hard to read ❒ About right ❒ Easy to read

READING INTERESTS

Below are listed different kinds of stories. Please rate your overall interest in each type:

	Very interested	*Somewhat*	*Not at all*
Workshop/lecture information	❒	❒	❒
How-to stories	❒	❒	❒
Seed swapping	❒	❒	❒
Stories about Philadelphia Green participants	❒	❒	❒
Recognition stories/honoring gardeners	❒	❒	❒
Health/medicinal herbs	❒	❒	❒
News about new Philadelphia Green projects	❒	❒	❒
Articles about plants/gardening	❒	❒	❒
Recipes	❒	❒	❒
Stories about what is going on in other cities with community gardening and urban greening	❒	❒	❒
Children's activities	❒	❒	❒
Stories about tree projects	❒	❒	❒
Information about books to help you garden	❒	❒	❒
Useful phone numbers (city agencies/non-profits)	❒	❒	❒

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Within what age range do you fall?

❒ Under 18 ❒ 36-45 ❒ 66-75

❒ 18-25 ❒ 46-55 ❒ 76+

❒ 26-35 ❒ 56-65

What is your gender?

❒ Female ❒ Male

Are you a PHS member and receive *Green Scene*?

❒ Yes ❒ No

(continued on back page)

RIDE SEPTA TO THE 1999

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Bouquet Pass, unlimited rides.

SEPTA is proud to be ideally situated to provide comfortable, convenient service to thousands of Show-goers, whether they arrive by regional rail, subway, bus or trolley. So, when planning your trip to the 1999 Flower Show, think SEPTA and remember:

- Every SEPTA railroad train stops at Market East Station, a short walk from the Convention Center
- Market-Frankford Line trains stop at 11th Street, and Routes 10, 11, 13, 34 and 36 trolleys are just a block away at 13th Street Station
- Broad Street Line subway trains connect at nearby City Hall Station
- Seniors ride buses, trolleys and subways free during off-peak hours and all day Saturday and Sunday. The railroad off-peak fare is $1 for seniors (free for those carrying PACE or ACCESS Cards)
- Free parking on weekends at all rail stations. Inexpensive parking is available at SEPTA stations on weekdays
- For special transportation needs, call SEPTA ParaTransit carriers for reservations: (215) 580-7145

Discounted, advance SEPTA Bouquet Passes and Flower Show tickets will be sold at SEPTA railroad stations and sales offices. The Bouquet Pass includes unlimited riding on all SEPTA vehicles and may be purchased in combination with discount Flower Show tickets. For further information, call SEPTA at (215) 580-7800 daily or *www.septa.org*

Produced by:
THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Presenting Sponsor:
PNCBANK

SEPTA
SERIOUS ABOUT CHANGE.

PHS's 1999 Philadelphia Flower Show

Design on Nature...the art of gardening

Make It A Day at the 1999 Show

Welcome to PHS's 1999 Flower Show, **presenting sponsor PNC Bank**. Please use this sheet as a reference; you can slip it in your pocket for easy access while at the Show.

• **New! The American Gardener Series** is the umbrella for all public Special Events at the Flower Show. Attend the *American Gardener's Backyard* for free hands-on demonstrations of the best gardening tips in the Grand Hall; enjoy the finest teas while tasting delectable sandwiches, scones, and cakes at this year's *Afternoon Tea at the Flower Show* held daily at 3:45pm in room 202B on the Show Bridge (cost is $20, separate from the price of admission to the Show); and come see famous local and national celebrity chefs conduct free grand gourmet presentations in room 204B at the *All Star Culinary Presentations.* Plus visit **The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Great Gardener's Events**—includes the *Lecture Series* and the *Gardener's Studio*.

• **Saturday & Sunday Hours.** On both Sundays, March 7 and 14, the Show will open at 8:00am for those early risers wishing to avoid the crowds and close at 6:00pm. On Saturday, March 13, Show hours are from 8:00am to 9:30pm.

• **Where Can I Grab a Bite?** Aramark serves a delicious assortment of hot or cold food at a variety of stands and restaurants. The Food Court is in the Grand Hall on Show level.

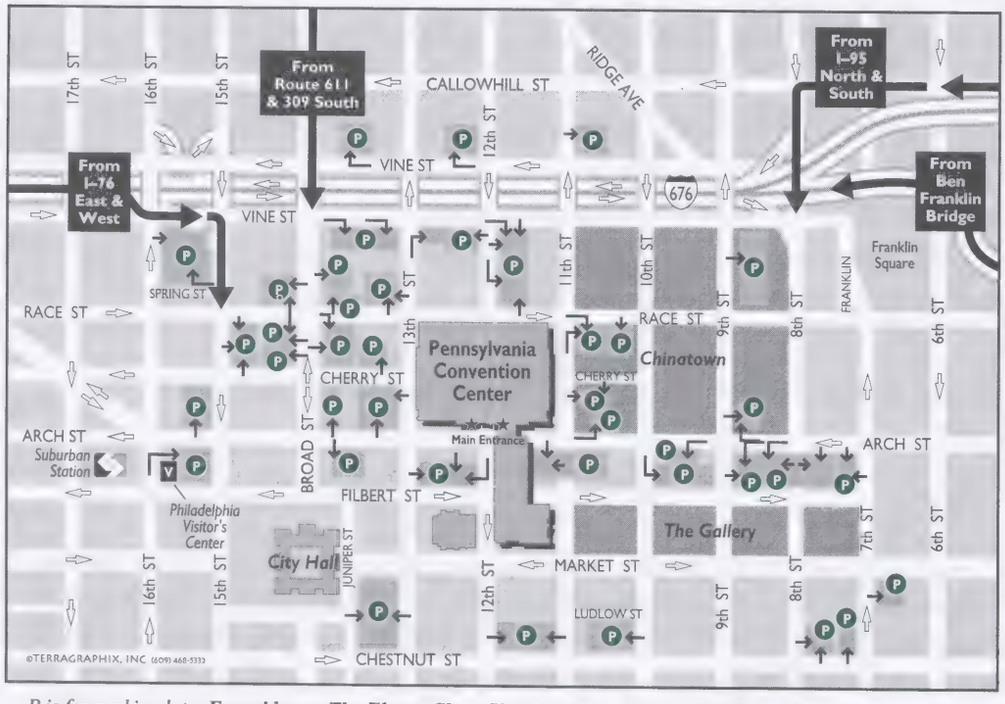
• **Re-Entry Policy.** Same-day re-entry is permitted if hand is stamped *before* leaving Show level. Hand-stamping is available only on the second level concourse (near both Down escalators and at the Headhouse exit). Visitors may leave from any exit and use any entrance to re-enter the Show.

• **Transportation.** Traveling via public transportation to the PCC is easy. Call SEPTA for special offers and schedules. If you do choose to drive, however, free rides on the Flower Show shuttle trolley will carry you from stops convenient to most lots. (See map below for shuttle hours and locations).

• **I'm Lost!** Lost persons should report to PNC Bank Park in the southeast corner of the Exhibit Hall.

Citywide Celebrations & Flower Show Week

Flower Show Week is blooming with over 80 restaurants, museums, galleries, shops and hotels that will hold spring-themed special events and floral displays. When you arrive at the Flower Show, be sure to pick up a coupon book for special Flower Show week offers or request one through our hotline (215) 988-8899. Visit our website for all activities during Flower Show week: *www.libertynet.org/flowrsho/*



P is for parking lot... ***Free rides on The Flower Show Shuttle trolley will carry visitors from stops convenient to most lots.*** *The Shuttle runs every day of the Show: Members Preview Saturday 3/6, First Shuttle: 5:30am; Last shuttle loop: 10:45pm. Monday 3/8 - Friday 3/12, First shuttle: 6:15am; Last shuttle loop: 10:45pm. Sunday 3/7, Saturday, 3/13, Sunday 3/14: First shuttle: 5:30am; Last shuttle loop: 10:45pm.*

Telephone Numbers

General 1999 Flower Show Information (24-hour recording): (215) 988-8899

SEPTA: (215) 580-7800
fares/schedules (See Reverse)

PHLASH: (215) 4-PHLASH
fares/schedules

AMTRAK: (800) USA-RAIL
USAirways: (800) 334-8644

National Car Rental: (800) CAR-RENT

PATCO Hi-Speedline: (215) 922-4600

Philadelphia Visitor Info: (800) 611-5960

Accommodations Express (hotel packages): (800) 380-4683

Tree Tenders Help Bridge the Gap

Inside Our Special Teacher Training Sessions

By Joan Blair

A new idea is catching on in the Philadelphia School District: *if you get students involved in their communities, a whole world of learning will open up to them.* In fact, the school district thought it was such a good idea that it recently mandated community-based service as a graduation requirement for its students by the year 2002.

Keeping with the spirit, Philadelphia Green's "Tree Tenders" teacher-training program is abuzz with talk of bridging community service with environmental education. The Tree Tender training–*offered free of charge to Philadelphia-area educators*–shows teachers how to involve students in tree-area activities. Through the program, teachers and students work side by side on projects, ranging from taking inventories of neighborhood trees to growing seedlings in "tree labs" located on school property.

"By taking part in Arbor Day and tree-care activities, a lot of the kids have been positively affected, even the youngest ones," said science teacher Sue Parks, who has assisted the East Falls Tree Tenders group to organize Arbor Day events. "They have a better understanding of the relationship between trees and the health of the ecosystem and, as a result, are more appreciative of trees and forests."

Kids are not the only ones affected, notes Sue. "Occasionally, people who recognize my face from Tree Tenders stop me in the street and tell me how wonderful the trees look. Some even ask for assistance and where they can receive training. It just goes to show how dramatically Tree Tenders has impacted the Philadelphia community."

A student at Meade Elementary School prunes, plants bulbs, cleans up, and deadheads marigolds as part of her school tree lab.

Whenever possible, Philadelphia Green introduces schools to already established Tree Tenders community groups, and then supports the efforts of neighbors, teachers, and students who are working together for the common good. When asked about planting and caring for trees on school grounds, one student from Horatio B. Hackett Elementary School proudly exclaimed, "I felt like a good citizen when I planted the trees. I put worms in the tree pit so that the tree will grow. It was fun getting dirty and making the outside beautiful."

Through these partnerships, a collective sense of responsibility for the environment is developed. Kenny Holdsman, Director of Service Learning, observes, "The School District of Philadelphia's Service Learning Initiative is designed to give students a greater sense of purpose and a stronger sense of their place in the larger community. Thanks to Tree Tenders, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has become one of our most vital partners in this endeavor."

If you know a teacher who might be interested in the three-session Tree Tenders teacher training in April, call Youth Programs coordinator Joan Blair at (215) 988-8843. ■

New Beetle Invasion Threatens North American Trees

By Hal Rosner

No, this invasion of beetles isn't about four lovable moptops from Liverpool, England. This beetle is *Anoplophora glabripennis* or, as it's more commonly known, the Asian longhorned beetle and it may potentially be "Public Enemy #1" to our urban and regional forests. As of this writing, Philadelphia has had no reported outbreaks or tree losses and the Department of Agriculture has been stationing Plant Protection and Quarantine officers at all ports of entry for intensive monitoring and inspection. Still, the beetles have been found in 26 warehouse and residential sites scattered across 14 states, including several in Pennsylvania. The pest has become a true global problem, causing trouble for everyone from Brooklyn grandmothers to Hong Kong shipping merchants to New England maple syrup makers. These beetles have been known to burrow large holes in trees, thereby damaging the tree's vascular system and ultimately, killing the tree.

So what does it look like? The adult beetle is about one-inch long, has coal-black wings sprinkled with yellow or white spots, and its super- long antennae have black and white bands. These critters seem to like different kinds of hardwood trees, dining on everything from Norway maples and horse chestnuts to elms and willows.

However, the real question is whether the beetle is likely to spread to Philadelphia. Unfortunately, according to experts, the answer is *very likely*. Along with Baltimore and Wilmington, Philadelphia is a shipping port and beetles have been found in the wooden pallets used for shipping. Furthermore, because the city is well forested, it is susceptible to an invasion of this kind. That's why it is important that you monitor the trees in your garden and on your street for suspicious bug activity. Some key indicators to keep in mind as you inspect your trees:

- Sudden browning or yellowing of limbs
- Check for piles of chewed sawdust or "frass" at the base of trees or in main crotches
- Look for holes, often the size of a dime, created by the emerging adult

If you see signs of the Asian longhorned beetle, contact the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; Fairmount Park; or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. Quick detection and identification are crucial in the control of these beetles.

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
(215) 988-8800

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January/February 1999

Edited by Pamela Q. Vu
Printed on Recycled Paper

Join Our Training Workshops

JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW WORKSHOP

Involve your class in this year's Junior Flower Show
"ART IN THE GARDEN"
May 10th-14th
at the Horticulture Center
in Fairmount Park
BUT FIRST
Sign-up for the JFS Workshop and
learn how to create award winning horticultural and artistic entries.

WORKSHOP DATE:
Tuesday, April 6, 1999, 3:30-5:30pm
PLACE: PHS, 100 N. 20th St., Phila. 19103

CONTACT FLOSSIE NARDUCCI, (215) 988-8897,
FOR MORE INFORMATION

BE A TREE TENDERS TEACHER

LEARN TREE CARE
AND GET YOUR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Philadelphia Green is offering FREE classes and hands-on training to all educators who work with children. The classes show teachers how to involve students in tree care and create successful community based service learning projects related to tree care and the environment.

* The 9 hour training will take over three days this Spring. *Wed. April 14th & Tues. April 20th (4-7pm) and Sat. April 17th (10-1pm)*
* The training will be held at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 100 North 20th St. Phila. (the corner of 20th & Arch)

If interested call 988-8844 and say...
Yes, I'm a Great Tree Tender!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL JOAN BLAIR,
(215) 988-8843.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates People to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Your Spring Gardening Checklist

By Sally McCabe, PG Outreach Coordinator

Good Friday has always been the traditional kick-off day for spring gardening. I've asked many gardeners, especially the "older" ones, how this tradition started. The answers I got were as varied and interesting as the gardeners themselves. "It's just the right way to do it; beans don't grow if you plant them before or after Good Friday. Well, a few might come up if you plant them later, but they won't do as well," said one community gardener. Another asserts, "It's easier to remember Good Friday than 'the first Friday after the full moon, which happens upon or next after the vernal equinox.'"

The answer I like best, however, is the simplest one: "It's the first spring day that everybody who works for the City has the day off." However you reckon the signs, Good Friday this year falls on April 2nd, and is a perfect time to start your city garden.

Clean Up

Get rid of dead plants and weeds. This is where last year's bugs and diseases are hanging out, waiting to leap onto new and tender plants.

Repair

Fix fences, gates, pathways before preparing soil or planting, since walking on soil compresses it, and walking on plants kills them.

Compost

Move last year's bin to a new location, and move uncomposted materials from the top of the pile to the bottom. Spread old compost over garden beds to be dug in later. If you don't have a compost bin, start one now, and dump in all the weeds that grew over the winter. Then go find compost from somewhere else to spread over the beds.

Prepare Soil

Turn over soil, digging in lots of compost or organic matter. Rake smooth and put weed clumps into compost bin, soil and all.

Harden Off

Get transplants ready to face the cold temperatures and bright sun by bringing them outside a little at a time. Set them out a little longer each day, and bring them in at night until they've been toughed up enough for planting in the ground.

Plant

Divide and plant perennials, grasses, and herbs. Plant roses, shrubs, and trees now so they can put down roots before the heat and drought of the summer. Plant cool-season vegetables only. This includes most root crops, greens and cabbage family, and peas. It does not include beans, corn, cukes and squash, or eggplants, peppers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and watermelons–Good Friday or not. Wait until the warmer weather of May to plant these crops.

Don't Take Chances

The official "last frost" date here in the city is May 1. If you insist on planting warm-season crops in the ground earlier than that, be ready to dash out and cover them with plastic, paper or blankets every time the temperature drops below 55 degrees (which is just about every night before that date). Otherwise, you might ruin your crops before growing season really begins. Remember, everything in its own time. ■

1999 PHILADELPHIA GREEN BRUNCH HONORS LOCAL HEROES

A sea of candles lit up the ballroom at the Flower Show, as 600 urban gardeners and volunteers celebrated Philadelphia Green's 25th anniversary at the 1999 PG Brunch.

Highlights included the announcement of the recently awarded $1 million grant by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund to revitalize our parks, as well as honoring members of our community for their undying commitment to Philadelphia Green.

The Philadelphia Mural Arts Program and PNC Bank were singled out for their commitment to improving the quality of life in our region.

Among the individual honorees were Hayward Ford, Mamie Nichols, Barbara Kaplan, and Ernesta Ballard.

Hayward Ford is a long-time volunteer who played a key role in developing the Aspen Farms Community Garden in West Philadelphia, one of the city's earliest community gardens.

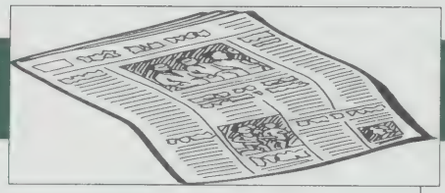
Community leader Mamie Nichols believes in her own individual power and the power of the people, working with Philadelphia Green and the community to transform Point Breeze into a model "Green Countrie Towne."

Barbara Kaplan, executive director of the city's Planning Commission, has been a staunch advocate of community green space for nearly 25 years. Before it was trendy to think "green," Barbara worked with Philadelphia and Penn State Urban Gardening to explore ways to preserve community gardens.

Finally, Ernesta Ballard, who served as PHS's President from 1973 to 1980, had an idea: make gardening accessible to everyone. Philadelphia Green stemmed from this simple idea and it would go on to become a model program for urban greening. Fondly known as the "mother of Philadelphia Green," Ernesta's vision and dedication set the standard for those who would follow her.

Congratulations to all!

-Pamela Vu



In The News

Rally in New York City to Save Community Gardens

New York City will put 115 community parks up for auction in May. Gardeners and technical assistance groups are opposed to this action. They advocate that each garden be reviewed before any development occurs. Petitions have been circulated and a public rally is set for Saturday, April 10th, from 11am-3pm in Bryant Park (42nd and 6th Ave). The Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA) has collected signatures in Philadelphia for the petition, and is also sponsoring a bus to NYC.

If you or any gardeners are interested in taking part in the rally, please call NGA at (215) 988-8797. The bus will leave from the Visitors Center at JFK Plaza at 8am on April 10th, and will depart from New York City's Bryant Park at 4pm the same day.

The bus will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Wake Up Your Garden and Get a Jump on Spring

Attend Philadelphia Green's workshop on Saturday, April 17, 10:00am-1:00pm, at Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden (2700 Ridge and Glenwood Avenues). To register, call Dawn Johns at (215) 988-8845.

BE A TREE-TENDER

LEARN TREE CARE

and keep your trees and city healthy!

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green is offering classes and hands-on training to groups interested in caring for trees in their neighborhood.

*** Training is free to groups that commit to organizing tree care days.**

*** Individuals can be matched up with an organized group, or receive assistance in forming a group of their own.**

- **The 12 hour training will take place over 3 Wednesday evenings and a Saturday morning this June... (the 9th, 16th, 19th & 23rd)**

If interested call 988-8844 and say...

Yes, I'm a Great Tree-Tender!

BE A TREE TENDERS

TEACHER

LEARN TREE CARE AND GET YOUR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green is offering FREE classes and hands-on training to all educators who work with children. The classes show teachers how to involve students in tree care and create successful community-based service learning projects related to tree care and the environment.

- **The 9 hour training will take place during 3 days in April**
  Wednesday, April 14th 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  Saturday, April 17th 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
  Tuesday, April 20th 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The training will be held at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 north 20th St. Phila (corner of 20th & Arch)
If interested, call 988-8843 and say...

YES, I'M A GREAT TREE TENDER!

Coming Up

May

1 **Philadelphia Green Community Gardener's Plant Sale**
Held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. Watch for order forms in the mail. If you haven't received yours, call Flossie Narducci at (215) 988-8897.

10-15 **Junior Flower Show**
Held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. This year's theme is *Art in the Garden*. For more information, call Flossie Narducci at (215) 988-8897.

25 **City Hall Planting**
Held at City Hall from 9:00am-noon. **Rain date set for Friday, May 27.** Interested volunteers, call (215) 988-8897.

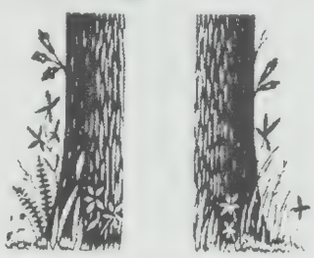
Young Trees at Elmwood Park get "Adopted"

By Jeff Tober, PG Project Coordinator

Last fall, The Friends of Elmwood Park worked with Philadelphia Green staff to plant 35 trees in Elmwood Park. Now the young hawthornes and tree lilacs are sprouting their leaves and flowers, beautifying the southwest Philadelphia community with spring colors.

But young trees need special care, especially in an urban environment where heat, pollution, and compacted soil can take a toll. To give the trees a helping hand, 10 volunteers from the Elmwood neighborhood will be adopting the trees. This will entail hauling a 300-feet hose to the park to provide water, mulching the trees, controlling weeds, and talking to neighbors about tree care and how they, too, can get involved. Students from nearby Patterson Elementary School have been working hard to water and care for many of the trees, but classes won't be around to help during the hot summer months.

The "Elmwood Park Tree Care Corps" will kick-off their service on Saturday, April 17 in conjunction with the "Teacher Tree Tenders Picnic With A Purpose." PG staffers Mindy Maslin and Joan Blair will be at Elmwood Park to demonstrate proper tree care to Philadelphia teachers who will later involve their students in tree projects at their schools. To learn more about the Friends of Elmwood Park, call (215) 365-5325. For more information about the Tree Tenders Program, call Mindy Maslin at (215) 988-8844. ■



Important Q&A's for Your Spring Tree Care: *Part I*

By Hal Rosner, Bartlett Tree Experts, and Mindy Maslin, PG Project Manager

Q: Is spring a good time to prune flowering trees?

A: It's best to wait until after trees are done flowering. There's a bit of a debate regarding the best time to prune, but for popular flowering varieties of cherries and crabapples, we'd recommend waiting until flowering is over and leaves have expanded to full size. This gives the tree more time to close any wounds caused by pruning.

Q: When should I fertilize my tree?

A: Always test the soil prior to fertilizing. When to fertilize really depends on the type of fertilization being used. If, for instance, you are applying Earthlife or Treetone, a light application any time of year is fine. Both are organic sources of nitrogen and will break down slowly (although a word of caution with Earthlife: use it sparingly, since it's been known to burn roots). With the organic fertilizers, supplemental watering is essential.

Injection of a liquid suspension fertilizer can be done any time of year, too, as long as the ground is not already saturated, and plants are not in any way suffering from drought conditions (usually in July or August). This type of fertilizing is best done by a professional with special equipment.

There are other types of fertilizers for use with trees and shrubs available at garden centers. In general, follow the manufacturers' recommendations for usage. More importantly, make fertilizing part of an overall, plant health-care program that includes regular irrigation and mulching. Above all, remember to never *over-fertilize.* Fertilizer is not tree food. It is more like a prescription drug.

Q: What does mulch do for a tree? Also, what is the best kind of mulch, and are "mulch volcanoes" a serious problem?

A: Mulch is a multi-purpose friend to trees. It helps keep the moisture in the tree pit, adds nutrients into the soil, and keeps competing grass and weeds away from the tree's roots. It's also a barrier between the tree's trunk and lawn mowers or weed whackers. I prefer woodchips as a mulch. Fresh or partially composted, I like their aggregate size, ability to break down, and rugged functional appearance. An added plus is that they quickly start to break down into a viable soil component, and are both cheap and plentiful.

Tree scientists continue to find "mulch volcanoes" (the piling of mulch up high against the bark of the tree) to be a source of many problems. Piles of mulch on the trunks of trees provide an ideal habitat for wood decay organisms and grubs. Over-mulching is also thought to slow down growth of the plant, due to reduced transpiration (movement of water and nutrients) up and down the cambium layer. Leave 2-3" between the mulch and the tree trunk. Also, don't mulch more than 3-4" thick.

Q: How late in spring can I safely plant a tree?

A: Spring and fall are generally considered the best times to plant. Freshly dug, balled, and burlapped trees are best (ideally dug in late winter, early spring) for spring planting. Professionals plant late into the growing season, but are vigilant about soil moisture, making sure roots never dry out. Trees from containers, especially larger ones (over 1.5 inches in diameter) might pose more of a challenge, as they are more likely to be pot bound. Late-spring plantings are more problematic for pot-bound trees because of the trauma associated with undoing roots that have grown in on themselves. ■

Free Trees for Arbor Day

- **Tree Farming Workshop**
- **Small Tree Give-away**
- **Tree Planting Demo**

When: Earth Day!
Thurs, April 22 4-6pm
Where: On Germantown Ave. near School House Ln. in Germantown.
RSVP to Mindy at 988-8844
Please fill out a postcard stating your name, address, phone #, where the tree(s) will be planted and your maintenance plan for them. Bring this with when you pick up the trees.

***A SPECIAL SECOND SESSION Will Be Offered at Gorgas Park's Earth Day Celebration on Saturday April 24th form 11-1pm**

4th ANNUAL BIKE RIDE OF
TREES IN PHILADELPHIA

Join Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders, The Bike Club of Philadelphia and Bartlett Tree Experts for an easy 10-12 mile ride of the Historic and Notable Trees of West Fairmount Park.

Where: Boat House #1, Lloyd Hall, Behind the Azalea Garden, at Kelly and Aquarium Drives
When: Sunday April 18th at 1pm.
What: Highlights include: A Caster Aralia by the Japanese House , a Chinese Fir with unusual blue foliage, a magnificent Fern-Leaf Beech and a grove of Meta-Sequoias
What else: Helmets are required, water bottles are helpful
Contact: Mindy at 988-8844

1999 Philadelphia Tree Tenders

District One

1. **East Falls Tree Tenders**, Cynthia Kishinchand, 849-2474
2. **Frankford Group**, Mary Rumble Amerman, 535-8493
3. **Impact Services**, Phyllis Martino, 739-1600
4. **Kensington North Tree Tenders**, Zoa Schisler, 423-1025
5. **Kensington South**, Patrick O'Connor, 739-6362
6. **Rainbow Park for the Arts**, Iman Kahanab, 425-1356
7. **Trees for Tomorrow**, Michael Blackie, 425-8933
8. **Village of the Arts and Humanities**, Amy Fiske, 225-7830
9. **2400 Block East Dauphin**, Lynn Shain, 425-1302

District Two

10. **Asian Americans United**, Lisa Yau, 952-1538
11. **Beau Gardens**, Mark Moncavage, 627-4218
12. **Bel Arbor**, Carla Puppin, 339-0248
13. **Fairmount Parents/Business, Neighbors Assoc.**, Rose Marie Pasicznyk, 236-2671
14. **Fairmount Water Works**, Ed Grusheski, 592-4908
15. **Fitler Square Tree Tenders**, Trudy Kuehner, 545-6599
16. **Friends of Cianfrani Park**, Roxanne Galeota, 829-0582
17. **Friends of Eastern State Penitentiary** Marie Holman, 566-5463
18. **Friends of Seger Park**, Mary Seton Corboy, 922-7911
19. **400 Block of Dickinson**, Kirk Brown, 551-6186
20. **Gaskill/Bainbridge**, Henry Hauptfuhrer, 925-2696
21. **Kater Street**, Marsha Canfield, 592-1614
22. **Liberty Lands**, Janet Finegar, 627-4633
23. **Logan Square Assoc.**, Wylie Garcia, 568-4745
24. **Norris Square**, Iris Brown, 634-2227
25. **Northern Liberties Tree Tenders**, Sara Olsen, 922-6732
26. **Passyunk Tree Tenders**, Andrea Krupp, 463-8215
27. **Pigs Alley Committee**, Bill Gannotta, 236-9619
28. **Philadelphian Apartments**, Molly Albert, 763-8311
29. **Mt. Vernon Tree Tenders**, Bill Jenkins, 765-8484
30. **Society Hill Civic Assoc.**, Jean Bodine, 627-8393
31. **South Philadelphia**, Anna Maria Vona, 336-3154
32. **Spring Garden Tree Tenders**, Stephan White, 236-2754
33. **2100 Fitzwater Garden Committee,** Kathy Garvin, 546-6455
34. **Urban Gardeners**, Maureen O'Hara, 560-4167
35. **Washington Square West**, Virginia Trosino, 625-2599
36. **Women's Com. Revital Proj.**, Syreeta Bennett, 627-5550 ext.226
37. **Young Men Inc.**, Myron Reddy, 232-7303

District Three

38. **Awbury Arboretum**, Tom Mishler, 849-2855
39. **Coulter Street Meeting**, Rebecca Schneider, 438-3012
40. **Central Roxborough Civic**, Jill Schneider, 483-2952
41. **C.W. Henry School**, Steve Donegan, 232-5459
42. **Duval Improvement Assoc.**, Madeline McGee, 848-0565
43. **Friends of Queen Lane Station**, Nanci Harmon, 848-2854
44. **Friends of Kemble Park**, Louis Broadus, 927-0691
45. **Germantown Greene**, Ruthe Yaskin, 844-2328

List and Resources

46. **Houston Tree Tenders**, Risa Jordan, 741-4243
47. **Manayunk Neighbors**, Jane Glenn 482-5528
48. **Oaklane Tree Tenders**, Charles Phillips, 232-9793
49. **Olney Tumbling Team**, Daisy Cintron, 924-4917
50. **Penn-Knox Neighbors**, Tina LeCoff, 844-2188
51. **Pulaski-Roberts Gateway Project**, Nick Roush, 848-5741
52. **Roxborough Tree Tenders**, John Boyce, 487-3725
53. **Schuyler Street Tree Tenders**, Tony Mauro, 844-7328
54. **Seachange**, Jacqui DeShields, 978-5930
55. **Upper Roxborough Tree Tenders**, Daniel Hoffman, 482-3461
56. **Wayne-Hannsberry Community Garden**, Al Ford, 849-1331
57. **West Mt. Airy Tree Tenders**, Gayle Koster, 248-4909
58. **Wissahickon Neighbors Civic**, Laura Moorehead, 482-4188
59. **Wissahickon Stewardship Program**, Jason Lubar, 242-2059
60. **Woodbrook Lane**, Martha Baysmore, 242-3043

District Four

61. **Belmont Community Gardens**, Rasheedah Hyman, 222-7192
62. **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders**, Johanna Fine, 724-4517
63. **Environmental Partners**, Andrea Hall, 471-0575
64. **Friends of Clark Park**, Paul Brooks, 222-5339
65. **Habitat For Humanity**, Frank Console & Sean Toner, 477-4639
66. **Larsage Neighbors**, John Scott, 747-3117
67. **Mantua Green Tree Tenders**, Beverly Lawrence, 222-7852
68. **Point Breeze Tree Tenders**, Mamie Nichols, 334-2666
69. **Powelton Village Civic Assoc.**, Marilynn Taylor, 386-2240
70. **Regent Square Tree Tenders**, Naomi Segal, 222-4453
71. **6200 Ellsworth Street**, John Steptoe, 472-2120
72. **Spruce Hill Community Assoc. Tree Tenders**, Amanda Benner, 222-3835
73. **The Over-The-Hill Gang**, Jacquelyn Wright, 727-1693
74. **U.C. Green**, Esaul Sanchez, 386-1827
75. **Wynnefield Residents Assoc.**, Skip Wiener, 877-7203

District Five

76. **Friends of Fox Chase Farm**, Jim Kates, 673-2981
77. **Oxford Circle Civic Assoc.**, Pat Stroble, 535-9087
78. **Whitehall Tree Tenders**, Carol Vanagaitis, 535-5301

New Jersey

79. **Collingswood Horticultural Society**, Gayle Reedy, (609) 854-3592

City-Wide

80. **Earth Yes, Dept. of Rec. Environmental Camp**, Tina Krovitz, 683-3680
81. **National School and Community Corps**, Beth Zawodniak, (609) 452-7007 ext.73

Fairmount Park Commission

Park Manager:	Pat Crossnan	(610)352-8645
District Arborists:		
District One, North Philadelphia	Mike Helsen	(215)685-0108
District Two, Center City & South	Rich Sunday	(215)685-1837
District Three, Northwest Philadelphia	Ernie Barile	(215)685-2577
District Four, West & Southwest	Gus Jardel	(610)352-8644
District Five, Northeast Philadelphia	Charles Patton	(215)685-8795

Resources

Mindy Maslin, Tree Tenders Training	(215)988-8844
Joan Blair, Tree Tenders Teacher Training/Adopt-A-School	(215)988-8843
Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania Plant Clinic Ext. 141	(215)247-5777
Pennsylvania One-Call System Call Before You Dig	1(800)242-1776
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	(215)988-8800
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Hotline Monday through Friday, 9:30am - noon	(215)988-8777
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Library Monday through Friday, 9am - 5:00pm	(215)988-8622
Fairmount Park Recycling Center, Ford Road Monday through Saturday, 7-30am - 3:00pm	(215)685-0109
Penn State Urban Gardening- Soil Testing Kits	(215)471-2224

Games For The Earth

Fun-filled Ideas and Book Sources for Your Arbor Day and Earth Day Celebrations

By Joan Blair, PG Outreach Coordinator

Organizing an Arbor Day or Earth Day event for a large group of children can be a challenge, especially when you also have to clean up afterward. Fortunately, there are alternatives that offer maximum fun with minimal fuss. High on my list are games that engage children in noncompetitive, earth-friendly play. Giving children a comfortable way of enjoying themselves outdoors fosters their trust in each other and puts them more in touch with the natural world.

A variety of games that lend themselves to large-scale events can be found in the following books: *The New Games Book*, edited by Andrew Fluegelman, and *More New Games* by the New Games Foundation. The idea behind these books is to give a different spin to traditional, competitive games. For example, tag becomes "Hug Tag" and volleyball becomes "Planet Pass." Counter-culture guru Stewart Brand, who inspired many of these experimental adventures, also coined the slogan that captures their message: "Play Hard, Play Fair, Nobody Hurt."

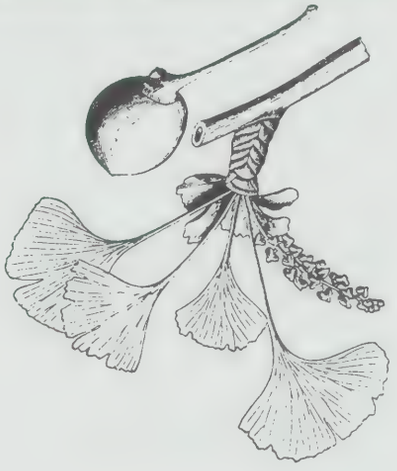
If you're still looking for more sources, educator Dale Le Fevre, who has worked with the New Games Foundation since 1974, wrote *New Games for the Whole Family*, which features games that require absolutely no equipment—only people are needed. He also co-authored *Parachute Games* with Todd Strong, which gives event coordinators more than enough ideas to keep hundreds of children happy, peaceful, and tuned in to the earth and sky.

Environmentalist and author Joseph Cornell has some excellent suggestions for awakening children's enthusiasm in the beauty and mystery of nature. His book *Sharing the Joy of Nature* includes several quiet meditations, as well as the classic activity "Build a Tree" in which people learn about tree biology by acting out the various parts of a tree. In his fast-paced tag game "Owls and Crows," children test their knowledge of tree facts. These games would be welcome additions to any Arbor Day or Earth Day event.

The books *New Games for the Whole Family*, *Parachute Games*, and *Sharing the Joy of Nature* are currently available in bookstores. Although *The New Games Book* and *More New Games* are out of print, they can be found in many local libraries. Check out the website *http://www.mcn.org/a/newgames/books.html* for more information on cooperative games. ■

Now including the *Treebune!*

Edited by Pamela Q. Vu
Printed on Recycled Paper



April 1999

Philadelphia Green News

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Germantown Avenue Streetscape

Philadelphia Green Partners With GGHDC to Give Germantown Avenue a New Look

Main Street America is coming to Germantown Avenue. *How?* It's all part of the partnership between Philadelphia Green and the Greater Germantown Housing Development Corporation (GGHDC) to revitalize and improve the quality of life of this residential neighborhood.

Germantown Avenue: Conceptual Streetscape Design

When approached by GGHDC to plant street trees along the Avenue, Philadelphia Green (PG) had a more ambitious idea. "Here was an opportunity for us [Philadelphia Green] to do something bigger," said Don Holub, PG project manager. "We wanted a full-fledged streetscape plan that would include facade improvements, special paving, and additional street furnishings, such as benches, trash receptacles, and lighting. Together, these improvements will attract more businesses, encourage residents to stay, and improve property values."

Thanks to a conceptual "streetscape" design, Germantown Avenue near Freedom Square (between Wister and Collom Streets) is getting a whole new look. The idea is to make the area more conducive to business, while also maintaining the architectural character of the area. "Germantown used to be a thriving shopping district," Holub notes. "When it started to decline, a lot of people moved away. We want to restore the historically commercial area to its full splendor." (Interestingly, Freedom Square is also the birthplace of the abolitionist movement in the United States.)

PG invested in startup costs for design services, while the Prudential Insurance Company gave GGHDC a grant of $15,000 for facade improvements. PG is also pursuing other sources of funding. The project is planned to begin in the summer or early fall.

"Although the Avenue is considered a 'model demonstration block,' we are looking to continue our partnership with the GGHDC, ultimately doing improvements all up and down Germantown Avenue," Holub concludes.

Philadelphia Green's partnership with GGHDC demonstrates the potential for improvement, revitalization, and beautification in other neighborhoods throughout our city. This successful partnership has had a rippling effect. When the Frankford Group Ministries heard of what was going on with Germantown Avenue, they, too, approached PG about doing a streetscape along Frankford Avenue. *Stay tuned!*

—By Pamela Vu

The Roxborough Festival of the Arts in Gorgas Park

The Friends of Gorgas Park is having its second annual Roxborough Festival of the Arts the weekend of May 22 and 23. This fine arts and crafts festival will be held in beautiful Gorgas Park—the largest recreational green space in Roxborough/ Manayunk. If last year was any indication, this year's festival is sure to draw an even bigger crowd.

More than 90 artists, dancers, musicians, and performers (including a youth orchestra) are slated to appear. Children can come and create works of art. For those with huge appetites, there will be an assortment of food to choose from.

The Friends of Gorgas Park along with Philadelphia Green and the Philadelphia Department of Recreation are sponsoring the event. Also lending support to the event are City Councilman and Honorary Chairman, Michael A. Nutter; State Representative, Kathy Manderino; and Department of Recreation Commissioner, Michael DiBerardinis.

Come and show your support for our neighborhood parks!

—By John Boyce, President, Friends of Gorgas Park

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please Fill Out Our Readers' Survey

If you didn't find time to fill out the *Philadelphia Green News* Readers' Survey in the March issue, here's your last chance! Please take a few minutes right now to fill out the survey, seal it with tape or a staple, and drop it in the mail. It's that easy.

We need to hear from you so we can make the *Philadelphia Green News* even better. Please do it today!

Thanks for your help.

Coming Up in Spring

MAY

Junior Flower Show.....Week of May 10
Held at Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. For more information, call Flossie Narducci at (215) 988-8897.

Germantown Cleanup and Greening Day.....Saturday, May 15
Join in the fun in cleaning and greening schools, parks, and front-yards. A great chance to get some fresh air, make new friends, and help beautify Germantown. Meet at 10am just behind Freedom Square Shopping Center (Elder's Place, 53 Wister Street) to lend your helping hand. If you are interested in volunteering, call Debbie Hall, (215) 988-8877.

BioBlitz '99.....Fri. & Sat., May 21-22
Attend a two-day environmental fair on the urban forest and learn more about the natural resources found in our very own Fairmount park. Held at the Pennypack Band Shelter. Includes hands-on activity stations for families, children, and students. Sponsored by the Fairmount Park Commission's Natural Lands Restoration and Environmental Education Program. Please call Nancy Smith-Fagan, (215) 685-0275, for details.

Gorgas Park Roxborough Festival of the Arts.....Sat. & Sun., May 22-23
Enjoy the music, food, and entertainment at the 2nd annual Roxborough Festival of the Arts. Held at Gorgas Park (Ridge Ave. & Hermitage St.). (*See Page 1.*)

City Hall in Bloom.....Tuesday, May 25
Have fun planting impatiens and flowering vincas, while beautifying our historical City Hall. Held at City Hall from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Rain date set for Thursday, May 27. Please call Gretchen Trefny, (215) 988-8850, for more information.

JUNE

Registration Deadline: City Gardens Contest.....Thursday, June 10

City Gardens Contest Workshop.....Wednesday, June 2
How do I enter the contest? What are the judges looking for? How are points awarded? Find out the answers to these questions and more. Workshop held at PHS auditorium from 6:00-7:00pm. *Free.* Call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897, to pre-register.

Growing for the Harvest Show Workshop: Part I.....Monday, June 7
Held at "The Spring Garden," 18th and Wallace, Phila., PA. *Free.* Date for Part II: Monday, September 13. Call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897, to pre-register.

Tree Tenders Training.....Wednesdays, June 9, 16 & 23; Saturday, June 19
Held at PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Phila. If interested, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Learn How to Identify Weeds and Find Solutions....Wednesday, June 9, 6-8pm
Laurie Albrecht, Lawn Care specialist/horticultural consultant will lead the workshop. Held at Liberty Lands Gardens (Northern Liberties area). For more information, contact Eileen Gallagher, (215) 988-8880.

ATTENTION CITY GARDENERS! ENTER THE 1999 CITY GARDENS CONTEST

Be a judge:
Spend a day in July among tomatoes, zinnias, petunias, and zucchini. Visit gardens as large as city blocks or as tiny as a backyard corner. We need your expertise! Call (215) 988-8897 for more information.

Be a contestant:
If you garden in Philadelphia, you qualify to enter the City Gardens Contest. Amateur gardeners compete in a number of different categories from flower to vegetable to container gardens. Fill out the form (below) and mail to: City Gardens Contest, PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 by **June 10**. Good luck!

The deadline to become a judge or contestant in the City Gardens Contest is **June 10**. For more information, please call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897.

TO ENTER THE CITY GARDENS CONTEST

First place winners receive $50, second place $25, and third place $10 gift certificates. All winners receive a one-year membership to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address of garden: _____

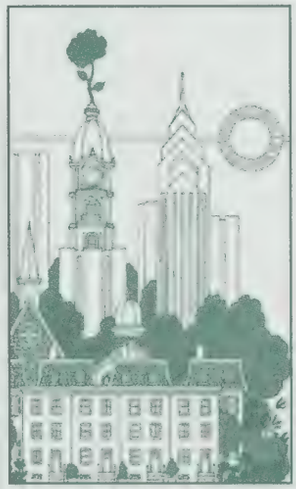
Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Check appropriate category

Individual Gardens
- ❒ Individual Vegetable Garden
- ❒ Individual Flower Garden
- ❒ Combination Flower/Vegetable Garden
- ❒ Individual Container Garden
- ❒ Child's Garden

Community Gardens
- ❒ Community Vegetable Garden
- ❒ Community Flower/Sitting Garden
- ❒ Combination Vegetable/Flower Garden
- ❒ Children's Garden
- ❒ Garden Block with Window Boxes and Sidewalk Planters
- ❒ "The Greenest Block in Town" Street Trees/Front Yards



Thank You

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Do you work outside the home?

❒ Full-time ❒ Part-time ❒ Not at all

What is your marital status?

❒ Single ❒ Married

❒ Partnered/Significant other ❒ Widowed

Do you use the Internet at home, at work, or somewhere else? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Do you work with children, other than your own, in your community? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Do you have children in your household?

Under the age of 3? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Between 3 and 12? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Over 12 and less than 18? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Your level of education:

Less than high school degree ❒

High school degree ❒

Technical school beyond high school ❒

Some college ❒

Graduated college (BA, BS) ❒

Attended Graduate or Professional School ❒

Affiliation with Philadelphia Green (PG):
Check all that apply.

Community Greening leader ❒

Neighborhood-based organization leader ❒

PG or PHS volunteer ❒

Funder for PG ❒

Staff of other non-profit ❒

Please include your Zip Code _____

Please fold this page on the dotted lines, seal with tape, and drop in the mailbox as soon as possible.

Thank You

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THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
100 North 20th Street - 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-8878
ATTN:Publications

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

Readers' Survey

Dear Friend of Philadelphia Green,

Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed Readers' Survey for the *Philadelphia Green News*. With the newsletter designed for readers like you, it's important that the *News* reflects your concerns as an interested Philadelphia Green gardener and/or supporter.

Your completed survey will greatly aid us in our efforts to give you the best publication to suit your needs. There is no cost to mail this back to us, and your feedback would be very helpful.

Sincerely,

J. Blaine Bonham Jr.

Blaine Bonham
Executive Vice President

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS INFORMATION

Do you always, sometimes, rarely or never read each issue of the *Philadelphia Green News*?

❒ Always ❒ Sometimes ❒ Rarely ❒ Never

Do you read *Philadelphia Green News:*

❒ Completely ❒ Part of it ❒ Not at all

How many others (family, friends, etc.) read your issue of *Philadelphia Green News*?_____

How would you evaluate *Philadelphia Green News* in terms of:

How <u>often</u> the newsletter is sent?

❒ Too often

❒ About right

❒ Not often enough

The <u>value</u> of the newsletter content?

❒ Excellent

❒ Good

❒ Satisfactory

❒ Poor

Currently, *Philadelphia Green News* is published nine (9) times per year. Would you prefer it to be published less often, say six (6) times per year, but with more pages?

❒ Yes ❒ No

What types of stories or articles would you like to see more often in *Philadelphia Green News*? _____

_____

Do you find the *News* and its layout:

❒ Hard to read ❒ About right ❒ Easy to read

READING INTERESTS

Below are listed different kinds of stories. Please rate your overall interest in each type:

	Very interested	*Somewhat*	*Not at all*
Workshop/lecture information	❒	❒	❒
How-to stories	❒	❒	❒
Seed swapping	❒	❒	❒
Stories about Philadelphia Green participants	❒	❒	❒
Recognition stories/honoring gardeners	❒	❒	❒
Health/medicinal herbs	❒	❒	❒
News about new Philadelphia Green projects	❒	❒	❒
Articles about plants/gardening	❒	❒	❒
Recipes	❒	❒	❒
Stories about what is going on in other cities with community gardening and urban greening	❒	❒	❒
Children's activities	❒	❒	❒
Stories about tree projects	❒	❒	❒
Information about books to help you garden	❒	❒	❒
Useful phone numbers (city agencies/non-profits)	❒	❒	❒

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Within what age range do you fall?

❒ Under 18 ❒ 36-45 ❒ 66-75

❒ 18-25 ❒ 46-55 ❒ 76+

❒ 26-35 ❒ 56-65

What is your gender?

❒ Female ❒ Male

Are you a PHS member and receive *Green Scene*?

❒ Yes ❒ No

(continued on back page)

Important Q&As for Your Spring Tree Care: *Part II*

By Hal Rosner, Bartlett Tree Experts, and Mindy Maslin, PG Project Manager

Q: When I cultivate the soil around my tree I inevitably disturb root hairs. Is this okay? Also, is it okay to plant annuals around my tree?

A: Mulching and soil cultivation will encourage a deeper root growth. Better to have roots growing deeper in the soil than at the surface. When there is a balance in soil temperature, moisture, and oxygen, root hairs are likely to grow and regenerate themselves; therefore, lightly cultivating the top couple of inches will not pose a problem.

As for annuals, it's fine to plant them at the base of a tree. They can also help notify us of drought conditions. When people see their flowers wilting, they are more likely to water them and, hopefully, their trees, too.

Q: How do you water a street tree whose roots are under the concrete?

A: Practically speaking, you can't, but the good news is, it's usually cool and moist under sidewalks. Sidewalks are poor conductors of heat and have similar qualities of a good mulch, in that they moderate soil temperature and limit evaporation. In any case, water the tree slowly wherever the root zone is exposed. Slow watering will hydrate the root zone both vertically and horizontally.

Q: Do wet winters make up for drought summers?

A: Of utmost concern among those involved with the care of woody ornamentals are the cumulative effects of drought over the past several growing cycles. The summer of 1998, when we had 16 consecutive weeks of minimal precipitation, was especially rough. Unfortunately, the minimal rainfall fits a pattern we've begun to see over the past several years. A wet winter is helpful, but doesn't solve the drought problem: trees need ground and root zone moisture during the summer when they are attempting to photosynthesize and grow. In a drought, trees stop growing.

For these reasons, continue to mulch and water. Mulch can be applied in the spring, and three-to-four inches can be added out to the dripline if possible. Keep mulches off the tree trunks. A regular deep watering program can begin as soon as spring rains subside, usually late June.

Q: Do vines hurt trees?

A: We're not big fans of vines on trees. They compete with trees in a variety of ways. In the root zone, vines may have the upper hand in intercepting water, whereas vines on tree trunks and branches may even limit photosynthesis. In the ecology of the forest, it's usually one plant (tree) for a given site. Using that logic, we like the idea of a tree having a park site or tree pit to itself. ■

Junior Flower Show

Art in the Garden

The Junior Flower Show offers youngsters an opportunity to experience the joy of growing plants, the thrill of competition, and reward of demonstrating their talents. With this year's theme "Art in the Garden," they can also expand their knowledge of art history and learn about the various styles and works of art. Not only are they encouraged to work hard, but also to have fun. Kids who visit the show can participate in many activities: stories for little sprouts, horticultural hunt, environmental jeopardy, plant-n-plug, and others.

We invite you to join us for some competition, learning, and fun.

The Show is open to the public:
Wednesday, May 12, 9:30am-3:00pm
Thursday, May 13, 9:30am-5:00pm

Registration
Registration takes place Monday, May 10 from 11:00am - 6:00pm.

Artistic Classes: Primary Colors, Still Life, Rousseau's Jungle Creatures, Van Gogh's Earring, Framed Masterpiece, Self Portrait, Public Sculpture, Garden Art-Pressed Plant Design, Repetition in Nature, Starving Artist, Calder's Mobile

Horticultural Classes: All plants must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of two months prior to the Show.

Challenge Class: All contestants grow their own entries from the same
variety of seeds. All materials provided, including bulbs or seeds, containers and soil.

For details on the entry rules for individual classes, call Flossie Narducci at (215) 988-8897 to request a booklet.

Spring Into Action

Take pride in knowing that you helped to beautify our public spaces, maintain our community gardens, and clean our neighborhood parks. We look foward to seeing you at the next spring workday.

SPRING WORKDAYS

PUBLIC LANDSCAPES

When: Thursday, May 6, 10am-1pm
Where: Airport
Contact: Marilyn Romenesko, (215) 988-8867

When: Saturday, May 8, 8am-11am
Where: Spring Garden Street, 17th & Spring Garden
Contact: Gretchen Trefny, (215) 988-8850

When: Saturday, May 8, 9am-noon
Where: Eastern State Penitentiary, 21st & Fairmount
Contact: Nancy O'Donnell, (215) 988-8866

When: Saturday, May 15
Where: Azalea Garden, behind the Art Museum
Contact: Marilyn Romenesko, (215) 988-8867

PARKS

Carroll Park
Location: 58th & Girard Avenue
Workdays: every Monday, 3:30pm, and every 3rd Saturday of the month, 10:00am
Contact: Doris Gwaltney, (215) 473-3797

Fairhill Square
Location: 4th & Lehigh Avenue
Workdays: every 3rd Saturday of the month, 10:00am
Contact: Jorge Arauz, (215) 423-7465

Malcolm X Memorial Park
Location: 51st & Pine Street
Workdays: every 4th Saturday of the month, 10:00am
Contact: Kate Loal, (215) 849-7713

The Sky's the Limit When It Comes to Container Gardening

As cities grow upward and outward, open land becomes increasingly rare and Philadelphia is no exception. This does not mean, however, that we are resigned to a gardenless life. With a container, you can garden anywhere—a windowsill, patio, sidewalk, stoop, wall balcony—just about any place a container will fit safely and receive four hours of sunlight a day. Here are tips for all you city dwellers wanting a fertile refuge and fresh vegetables.

Choose the container size appropriate to the vegetable you want to grow. Before planting, clean the container carefully with bleach to kill disease and fungus. Also, make sure the bottom has 4-6 holes for drainage. Place screens or paper coffee filters over the holes to prevent soil loss. You may want to set the container on bricks or blocks to prevent it from staining. Use a soil mix recommended for containers and add a few scoops of compost to improve soil nutrition if possible. Don't use yard or garden soil, it's too dense and heavy. Now comes the fun part...picking the vegetables you want to grow.

Peas. Sow seeds in early spring or fall and thin seedling to 2" apart. They mature in 50-60 days. Plant peas in long boxes under a netted trellis for support. Don't use chicken-wire because it heats up quickly in the sun, burning the tendrils. Recommended varieties are 'Sugar Snap,' 'Sugar Ann,' Burpee's Blue Bantam,' and 'Dwarf Gray.'

Greens. Sow seeds in spring or fall. They mature in 30-40 days. You can sow every 10-15 days for repeat crops, but you may need to shade them during the hot months. Try these varieties: 'Tom Thumb,' 'Baby Bibb,' 'Romaine,' 'Salad Bowl,' and 'Oak Leaf.'

Spinach. Sow seeds in early summer or late fall. They'll mature in 60 days. A 10-gallon container will support 10 plants. Recommended varieties are 'Vienna Hybrid,' 'Bloomsdale,' and 'New Zealand Spinach.'

Beans. Sow seeds into container 6" apart in early summer. They'll mature in 50-60 days. Bush or dwarf varieties work best. A 10-gallon container is perfect for two plants. Recommended varieties are 'Slenderette,' 'Tenderette,' 'Roma,' and 'Bush Fava.'

Eggplants. A 10-gallon container will support 1-2 plants. Start with nursery-started plants in early summer. Try 'Black Beauty,' or 'Ichiban Hybrid.'

Peppers. Plant nursery-started plants in late spring. Place two in a 5-gallon container, and space them 12" apart. You may need to stake them. Recommended varieties are 'Bell Boy Hybrid,' 'Sweet Banana,' 'Hybrid Early Bellringer,' 'Hot Hungarian Yellow Wax,' 'Jalepeno,' and 'Red Cherry Small.'

Tomatoes. Plant one in a 5-gallon hanging basket, or two in a 10-gallon pail. Recommended varieties are 'Burpee's Pixie Hybrid,' 'Tiny Tim,' and 'Sweet 100.'

Remember to fertilize containers every two weeks with a standard 10-15-10. Check plants daily; the soil should feel slightly moist to the touch. You may need to water twice on hot days, dressing the top with mulch will prevent some moisture loss. Watch foliage and fruit for markings or discoloration, which may indicate insect or disease infestation. *(Check out the July 1999* Green Scene *for more on container gardening.)*

Consult PHS Hotline (215-988-8783), or a local a nursery for diagnoses and treatment. Happy eating!

—By Erin Fournier, Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
(215)988-8800
May 1999

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Spring Rally Proves Fruitful for Big Apple Gardens

More than 100 beautiful community gardens in New York City, many of which were scheduled to go on the auction block, were spared at the eleventh hour. On May 13, 1999, a judge ruled that city officials had violated New York law by not considering the urban impact of the sale and suspended the sale. As the auction date neared, pro-garden demonstrators from New York and other cities also rallied against the sale in Bryant Park, all as part of the aptly dubbed "Standing Our Ground" movement.

In Philadelphia, the Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA) took the lead in rallying local community gardeners on behalf of those gardeners in New York City. Hundreds of signatures from the Philadelphia Flower Show were sent to Mayor Giuliani, along with a request to stop the sale. Thirty people also took the NGA-sponsored bus to Manhattan for a special rally to protest the sale on Saturday, April 10, 1999.

A procession of pro-garden demonstrators, including PG staffer Jeff Tober *(right)* and president of NGA Board of Directors, Hayward Ford *(far left)*, takes center stage at New York's Bryant Park, as part of the "Standing Our Ground" movement to stop the sale of more than 100 community gardens in NYC.

According to State Supreme Court Justice Richard Huttner, officials failed to look at how neighborhoods would be affected once these gardens were taken away. Better yet, following the decision, negotiations between city officials and a coalition of neighborhood preservation groups resulted in the purchase of all the properties by the Trust for Public Land. The private, nonprofit conservation group offered the city $4.2 million for the gardens ($1.2 million of which was raised by singer/actress Bette Midler).

"The rally was spirited and incredibly energizing," said Philadelphia Green staffer, Jeff Tober, who carried a colorful banner in the procession of gardeners. "People have promised to fight tooth and nail to protect their community gardens. Our own Hayward Ford, (president of the NGA Board of Directors and leader of Aspen Farms Community Garden), spoke for the Philadelphia delegation."

"I hope that this decision will make city officials everywhere think twice before they decide to take gardens back. The events surrounding the auction have become more than a New York issue. This could happen in Philadelphia, too," Jeff emphasized.

Folk singer Pete Seeger *(right)*, who led the crowd in song during the NYC rally, takes time out to pose with PG project manager Mindy Maslin *(center)* and Ruthe Maslin *(left)*.

Indeed, the New York story is an important lesson for Philadelphia community gardeners. Unless gardeners *own* their gardens, they are at the mercy of city administrators and policymakers. Over the past two decades, several city gardens have been lost to development. As a result of these losses, NGA was founded in 1986 by PHS and Penn State Urban Gardening for the sole purpose of preserving community gardens. Since that time, NGA has taken title to 20 gardens around the city and holds two long-term leases for others.

So, do you know who owns your garden land? And do you have a long-term plan for your garden? NGA can help. Just give a call to NGA at **(215) 988-8797**. Remember—we don't want to suffer the same problem our gardening friends in New York just went through. Call today and help preserve your city garden for the future.

—By Terry Mushovic,
NGA Executive Director

Coming Up in Summer

JUNE

Registration Deadline: City Gardens Contest
Thursday, June 10

Growing for the Harvest Show Workshop: Part I
Monday, June 7
Held at "The Spring Garden," 18th and Wallace, Phila., PA. *Free.* Date for Part II: Monday, September 13. Call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897, to pre-register.

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Wednesdays, June 9, 16 & 23; Saturday, June 19
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Learn How to Identify Weeds and Find Solutions
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1999 City Gardens Contest Workshop
Monday, June 14, 6-7pm (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)
How do I enter the contest? What are the judges looking for? How are points awarded? Find out the answers to these questions and more. Workshop held at PHS auditorium. *Free.* Call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897, to pre-register.

Plant Profile:
Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon grapeholly)

If you are looking for a plant with character and is well suited for city conditions, look no further than the *Mahonia aquifolium.* It is a bold plant with handsome foliage, brilliant yellow to orange flower spikes that give off a wonderful fragrance, and clusters of beautiful berried fruits to boast. This plant is an ideal woodland plant. Found in North America and Central America and parts of East Asia, it has the ability to grow on rocky slopes, as well as in acrid soils. The leaves can range in color from a light, silvery-gray green to a deep, dark shiny green.

Because of the many varieties of this species, *Mahonia aquifolium* can be found in all sizes, from a prostrate grower to a tall shrub. The foliage remains on the plant during the winter, turning to a deep, rich, burgundy to purple color. Some of the berry clusters can range in color from a frosted blue to black.

To purchase *Mahonia aquifolium* and its varieties, contact a nursery that has an extensive line of the more unusual plant species.

—Eva Monheim, Horticulturist and Instructor

Get a Jump on Your Fall Tree Planting and Planning
Tuesday, June 15, 7pm
Alan Jones, consulting arborist of Bartlett Tree Experts, will discuss tree planting problems and solutions. Lecture held at PHS. Refreshments will be served at 6:30pm. Please RSVP to Dawn, (215) 988-8845, by *Monday, June 14.*

Tree Tenders Picnic with a Purpose
Saturday, June 19, 10am-1pm
Attend workshops on tree identification, tree planting, tree pruning, cultivating and mulching tree roots, and more. Bring your work clothes and gloves, and a pot luck dish to share. Held at The Village of Arts & Humanities, 2544 Germantown Ave. (between 10th & 11th, Cumberland and Huntingdon). Accessible by Rt. 23 bus. Please RSVP to Dawn, (215) 988-8845, by *Thursday, June 17.*

Project Learning Tree
Friday, June 25, 9am-4pm
Graduates of the Tree Tenders Teachers training are invited to take part in a day-long Project Learning Tree workshop presented by staff from the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. Held at PHS auditorium. *Free.* Call Joan Blair, (215) 988-8843, to pre-register.

Tune in to Garden Tips on Action News

Jeff Myers of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society joins Dave Roberts of Action News every week with tips for gardeners. Tune in and learn everything from selecting annuals and deadheading daffodils, to preparing your soil and container planting.

"The show covers topics that every gardener should know," says Jeff. "Regardless of whether you are an experienced or beginner gardener, you'll find our quick tips helpful." The segment airs Fridays at 5:00pm and again, Sunday morning. The series will run through the fall.

Go online to ***http://abcnews.go.com/local/wpvi*** and click on *Garden Tips* for a transcript of each show.

If you or a friend has questions on gardening, call PHS's Horticultural Hotline (open Monday - Friday, 9:30am to noon) at 215-988-8777; or email: *jalling@pennhort.org*

Participate in Philabundance's "Share the Harvest" Program to Help Fight Hunger

Hundreds of gardeners in the Delaware Valley will "sow an extra row" in their home garden this summer to help fight hunger in our region. They are part of Philabundance's *Share the Harvest* program—a homegrown effort to provide nutritious food to local homeless shelters and emergency kitchens.

Drop-off sites include: Laurel Hill Gardens (Chestnut Hill); Smith & Hawken (Rosemont); Frank's Nursery & Crafts (Springfield); Main Line Gardens (Malvern); Waterloo Gardens (Exton); and Zagara's Specialty & Natural Foods (Marlton, NJ).

If you would like to participate in Philabundance's *Share the Harvest* program, please call Addie Farrell at (215) 339-0900 ext. 223 or email: *Afarrell@Philabundance.org* to receive an information packet.

Philadelphia Gateway to Greening
New Plantings Spruce Up JFK Boulevard

Have you found yourself recently strolling along JFK Boulevard, rather than making a mad dash from end to end? If so, it could be because of the re-landscaping that's taking place on this main artery, which stretches from 30th Street Station to 20th Street, where Philadelphia's business district begins. Amid the rush hour hum, this gateway used to fade into the periphery—today, it's a grand example of urban greening at work.

The 2000 block of JFK Boulevard before initial clean-up.

Work on the 20th Street block—which slopes down to the SEPTA tracks running from 30th Street Station to Suburban Station—began in the spring of 1997. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Staff enlisted the help of a group of volunteers from the Logan Square Neighborhood Association, the Mayor's Office of Community Services, along with further help from SEPTA to do the clean up in preparation for new plantings. In recent weeks, however, the project has kicked into full gear with trees and plants quickly filling up the green space.

"We needed to create a low-maintenance landscape and use plants that can tolerate city conditions on an acute slope," said Nancy O'Donnell, Philadelphia Green Public Landscapes project manager. As a result, red maple, scarlet oak, and green ash trees will line the sidewalk, while smaller trees (including PHS Gold Medal Award plants, 'Ivory Silk'and 'Winter King' hawthorn) will be planted further down towards the SEPTA tracks. Groundcovers include bearberry, sweet woodruff, and periwinkle. "These low-growing plants were chosen to discourage uninvited guests from taking residence in this area" added Nancy. Landscape contractors, Pennink Arrimour, installed the new plantings in May.

PHS invested $50,000 from Flower Show proceeds to get the project going. Last summer, The Pew Charitable Trusts provided a challenge grant to encourage other funders to contribute to the plantings.

This initial phase will be completed in June. The Public Landscapes staff teamed up with Lager Raabe Landscape Architects to design the landscape plan, which consists of four phases. Once all four phases are completed, the gracious streetscape will reflect the vibrance, beauty, and grandeur of the city. And as more funding becomes available, new plantings will be added to the blocks between 21st Street and the Schuylkill River, which have been maintained by PHS since 1990.

Better yet, the renovation is already having a pronounced effect. "Just the other day, I was astounded to see a woman sitting on the newly planted grass along 20th Street and JFK Boulevard. Since PHS has moved to our new offices on 20th, I have never seen anyone stop, let alone sit there and enjoy the scenery," enthused Nancy. "I guess the old adage, 'If you build it, they will come,' really is true."

—By Pamela Vu

New plantings along JFK Boulevard has transformed this strip, once strewn with trash and rubble, into one of Philadelphia's premier green gateways.

IPM For Your Garden

Rachel Carson's eye-opening book, *Silent Spring*, first raised public awareness of the impact of manmade chemicals on the environment back in 1962. Thirty-seven years later, there's little sign of a slow down in the use of chemical agents. Fortunately, this lack of concern for the planet has galvanized horticulturists, environmentalists, and scientists to come up with ways to prevent the indiscriminate use of pesticides, while maintaining healthy plants and vegetables.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is one such approach. "The idea is quite simple," says Marilyn Romenesko, Philadelphia Green Public Landscapes project manager. "Just apply sound horticultural principles to promote an overall healthy landscape. By reducing plant-related stresses, plants are less vulnerable to insects and disease, and therefore less likely to require pesticides to keep them healthy. I like to think of IPM as a holistic approach to plant care."

Marilyn offers these five tips to encourage healthier plant growth:

1) Choose plants that are suited to your site
2) Use the correct methods when planting and spacing plants
3) Promote plant health by preparing the soil, watering, and weeding as needed
4) Keep plants well groomed
5) Monitor pests and keep track of climatic conditions, signs of insects or disease, and symptoms of the plant

The Penn State Cooperative Extension has also long recognized the benefits of IPM, and has set up a database to research and document the benefits of IPM at various monitoring sites (one of them being the Azalea Garden at the Philadelphia Museum of Art). If you are interested in learning more of what IPM can do for your garden, attend the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's session on IPM in the Garden *[see sidebar]*.

Attend **IPM in the Garden** on *Saturday, August 21, 9:30-11:30am* at the Azalea Garden near the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Philadelphia Green staffers, Marilyn Romenesko and Gretchen Trefny, will lead a walk through the garden, demonstrate IPM techniques being used there, and discuss how to use these techniques in your garden. Fee $5. For registration information, please call Sally Kutyla at (215) 988-8775.

Information for Community Gardeners on the Internet

American Community Gardening Association
www.communitygarden.org

Aggie Horticulture
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
Information server of the Texas Horticulture Program, the combined information resources of the teaching, research and extension program at the Texas A&M University system

City Farmer
www.cityfarmer.org
This site prepared by Michael Levenston, Canada's unofficial minister of urban agriculture, provides information on urban agriculture and promotes urban food production and environmental conservation

Community Resources
www.communityresources.org
A nonprofit organization promoting community stewardship to restore our urban environment

Funding Opportunities
ag.arizona.edu/~maricopa/gardens
click on "funding"

"Harvest of Pride"
www.bright.net
Cuyahogo County (Cleveland) resource for community vegetable gardeners

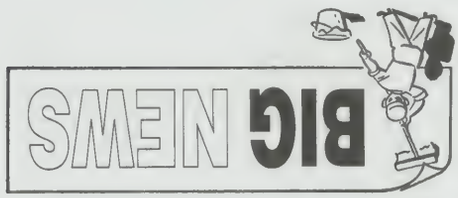
Information for non-profits
www.nonprofit-info.com

National Gardening Association
www.gardenweb.com

Sound Volunteer Management
www.halcyon.com

TreeLink
www.treelink.org

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu**, (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org*; or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Phila., PA 19103. Your story may be published!



PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

MORE THAN JUST A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Philadelphia Green Teams Up With APM to Beautify The Grounds of Jardines

When we think of housing developments, we tend to think of overcrowded high-rises with a limited landscape. But Philadelphia Green and the Association of Puerto Ricans on the March (APM) have set out to change the way residents of subsidized housing view their living space and neighborhood. Jardines (pronounced *har-DEEN-nis*; it means "garden" in Spanish) is a model of the positive impact greening can have on communities regardless of their economic status. It will change the way you think, too.

For many years, the grounds of Jardines (located at 6th and Diamond Streets) were in disrepair. Residents struggled with maintaining the property from outside vandals—plants were often trampled on and even stolen. It wasn't until Philadelphia Green teamed up with APM and the community that things started to change for the better. PG began work on Jardines a little over a year ago. PG staffer Mark Huber drew up a landscape plan for the common areas, surveyed residents, and came up with a cost analysis of the plantings to be used. A landscape contractor was also hired to do the cost estimate for the entire re-landscaping project.

Other PG staffers, including Debbie Hall and Carl Haefner, reached out to the community and helped them to get organized. They set up a design workshop in which residents could decide on how they wanted their backyards to look, and which shrubs and perennials to use. Carl also gave a demonstration on proper planting techniques. On the day of the planting, residents, community volunteers, and young people came out in force to show their support, determination, and commitment to the project.

"We saw great potential with Jardines," said Debbie Hall, PG project manager. "We wanted to make an impact not only in terms of aesthetics, but also on the attitudes of the residents. We went door-to-door to ask each one of them what plants and trees they wanted. In doing so, we gave them a voice and got them interested in their communities. Without the community's involvement, this project would not have been successful."

It was agreed that APM would take care of the trees planted in the common areas, whereas PG would help with plantings in the front- and backyards. Work began in mid-April. In one week's time, residents and volunteers (including Patricia Sims, Margarita Gonzalez, Maria Torrens, and John and Betty Nieves) working alongside APM and PG staff planted sawtooth oak, river birch, and hackberry trees, rototilled the soil, mulched beds, planted shrubs and perennials, and filled frontyard barrels with lush greenery. Before too long, Jardines was looking more like lush suburbia than a city housing development. And in a show of commitment, APM has recently hired a land-

Jardines residents and volunteers designing and planting backyards with roses, groundcover, and shrubs.

Continued on page 4

KEEP DANCING TO THE BEET...

The 20th Annual Conference of the American Community Gardening Association

This fall, Philadelphia will host the 20th Annual Conference of the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA). Held on Thursday, September 30 through Sunday, October 2 at the Holiday Inn (4th and Arch Streets), right within "America's most historic square mile." We invite you to attend one of the premier conferences on community greening and what promises to be a celebration of the gardening spirit.

The ACGA, a national non-profit, member-supported organization, seeks to promote community gardening and greening as a means for improving the quality of life for people and their communities. Each year, the national conference gathers people who take part in this collective mission, to share their experiences, and learn from each other. Philadelphia Green is the national headquarters for ACGA.

Exhibits, panel discussions, keynote speakers, and hands-on workshops will cover a wide range of topics including: how to get a garden started; urban agriculture; alternative gardening techniques; building partnerships; youth gardening; and more. To cap off the 4-day event, tours will be offered to community gardens in Philadelphia and Wilmington, as well as a visit to Longwood Gardens.

Conference co-sponsors include: the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program, the Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust, Penn State Cooperative Extension's Urban Gardening Program, the Delaware Center for Horticulture (Wilmington), and Isles, Inc. (Trenton).

For more information, or to request a registration brochure, contact staffer Patricia Schrieber, at (215) 988-8841. Also, for up-to-the-minute information, visit our website: *www.libertynet.org/phs*

THE THRILL OF COMPETITION AND GROWING PLANTS AT THE 1999 JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW

Squeals of delight echoed throughout the greenhouses of the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park as hundreds of youngsters visited the 1999 Junior Flower Show. The Horticulture Center was a new venue for this year's Show providing the perfect setting for the children to display their entries.

The grounds around the Center were also used for horticulturally related games and activities. Several stations were set up so that the more than 1400 visitors (over 30 schools, including Harding Middle School, Vare Middle School, Shipley Sprouts, St. Bridget's) could listen to "Stories for Little Sprouts," participate in "Plant-a-Plug," go on a "Horticultural Hunt," and play "Environmental Jeopardy."

The artistic classes, specifically "Rousseau's Jungle Creatures," had the largest number of entries. In this class, entrants made three-dimensional, freestanding creatures using only dried plant materials. Also new this year was the artistic challenge class. Open to all grade levels, this class required youngsters to make arrangements in the Horticulture Center with the materials provided.

Congratulations to all our entrants for your creative displays, hard work, and good sportsmanship!

NEWS

The Garden of Eatin' (at 25th and Dickinson Streets) was vandalized on two separate occasions in May. This city block of vegetables, freshly planted with tomatoes, lettuce, eggplant and other veggies, had its fences knocked down and the grounds torn apart. The community responded with swift action. With the help of community leader Alta Felton and volunteers, a workday was organized on Saturday, May 29, 1999, to repair the damages. In an overwhelming show of support, 100 people came out, ready to lend a helping hand and to make it clear that the neighborhood will not tolerate such behavior, nor will this setback keep them from gardening. Area stores also donated food and drinks for volunteers who came to help.

We salute all of you for helping to rebuild the fences and lifting the spirits of the gardeners in this community.

Beat the Heat/Summer Maintenance Tips for Your Garden

Thursday, July 15, 4-6pm

Workshop to be held at Glenwood Green Acres, located at 18th and Glenwood off Lehigh Avenue. *Free.* To register, please call Dawn Johns, (215) 988-8845.

IPM in the Garden

Saturday, August 21, 9:30-11:30am

PG staffers Marilyn Romenesko and Gretchen Trefny will lead a walk through the Azalea Garden near the Philadelphia Museum, demonstrate IPM techniques being used there, and discuss how to use these techniques in your garden. Fee $5. For registration information, please call Sally Kutyla, (215) 988-8775.

We Look Forward to Seeing You at the Next Summer Workday!

PUBLIC LANDSCAPES

Spring Garden Street

When: Saturday, July 10, 8-11am;
and Saturday, August 7, 8-11am
Where: 17th & Spring Garden
Contact: Gretchen Trefny, (215) 988-8850

Eastern Penitentiary

When: Saturday, July 10, 8-11am;
and Saturday, August 14, 8-11am
Where: 21st & Fairmount
Contact: Nancy O'Donnell, (215) 988-8866

Azalea Garden

When: Saturday, July 17, 8-11am;
and Saturday, August 21, 8-11am
Where: Azalea Garden
Contact: Marilyn Romenesko, (215) 988-8867

Thank you to Michael LoFurno of Composites Inc. for providing us with the rendering of the Germantown streetscape story that appeared in the June PG News.

Funding Available for Park Groups

Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project is looking to fund activities, events, and programs that improve the quality of life in urban communities, and reclaim and revitalize the city's neighborhood parks.

Groups affiliated with parks owned by the Philadelphia Department of Recreation are eligible for two different types of assistance: small grants and development grants.

If your group is interested in applying to fund a simple, small-scale project, request the Small Grants application. If your group is well established, has a history of ongoing activities in your park, and is interested in applying to fund larger projects, programming, or events, request the Development Grants application.

Applications are available by request. Please call Judy Heany at (215) 988-8878 for more information.

The Resurrection of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

If you visit 5421 Germantown Avenue in Philadelphia, you'll see St. Luke's Episcopal Church, a historical structure that dates back to 1811. Its grounds have been languishing for years, but with the help of Philadelphia Green and community volunteers, the gardens of St. Luke's have been resurrected in a blaze of glory.

As you enter the church grounds and stroll the walkway, your eyes immediately shift from left to right to take in the full view of lush, colorful gardens. Off to one corner, you notice a garden with hostas and lilies nestled up against a thick stone wall. As you head closer to the church, the lilting sounds of water flowing from a fountain can be heard. And with St. Fiacre (Patron Saint of Gardens) standing watch over the grounds, you can't help but think that you've found a little piece of heaven right in Germantown.

Community volunteers out on a workday planting beds in the gardens of St. Luke's Church in Germantown.

"Philadelphia Green was the spark," says Margaret Palmer, chairperson of the Church Grounds Committee. "With PG staffers Carl Haefner and Rogette Tucker's help, we were able to accomplish all that you see today." Work on the garden began a year ago, when Carl and Rogette drew up plans for the garden and helped coordinate volunteers to do planting and maintenance work. Michael Tuszynski, a rosarian from the Morris Arboretum, also gave a workshop on growing garden roses. In two short years, PG and community volunteers were able to transform the church grounds into a haven for the neighborhood to enjoy.

"We dedicated the gardens to the church and the community so that everyone is welcomed to stroll the church grounds," said Margaret following a dedication service of the historic gardens of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Sunday, May 16, 1999. To show their appreciation, the church committee and volunteers awarded Carl with a certificate for his vision and inspired hard work.

The schoolchildren of St. Barnabas Episcopal School (on the church grounds) also got involved. "The children would see us out working the gardens and ask us questions," Margaret recalls. "Soon enough, they were planting impatiens along the walkway from their school to the playground, and coming up with new ideas, like the butterfly garden that they eventually helped to create."

By Pamela Vu

IN THE GARDEN

SUMMER MAINTENANCE

No doubt about it—July is definitely summer. Plenty of heat, not enough rain, and weeds almost tall enough to shade the trees. Needless to say, there's plenty to do in the garden this month.

Maintence

Water deeply, at least once a week. It's not enough just to give plants a "social sprinkle" every night while you gossip with your neighbors. If you're watering by hand, tomato and pepper plants need about a gallon of water every other night if it hasn't rained.

Side-dress by spreading about a handful of general purpose fertilizer (10-10-10, 5-10-5, or 5-10-10) around each large plant in a circle three inches from the plant's base. For rows of plants, run a line of fertilizer alongside the row, about two inches from the plants. Lightly scratch the fertilizer into the surface of the soil.

Weeding and thinning are "musts." Keep plants from competing for space and soil moisture by pulling out weeds, and thinning out more crowded plantings, especially root crops.

Mulch. Anything that covers the soil to warm it up, cool it off, keep it moist, or keep weeds from growing is considered mulch. Newspaper, hay, wood chips, or leaves are all good mulches.

Harvest Like Crazy

Keep picking plants. Once plants ripen up their fruit, they call it quits unless the ripe fruit is removed.

Vigilance. Watch out for bugs. They don't mind the heat a bit and will take advantage of the time you spend inside in front of a fan to devour your garden.

By Sally McCabe

Housing Development continued from page 1

scape maintenance person to manage and oversee the newly planted common areas, and to work closely with PG and tenants.

"Our partnership with Philadelphia Green is necessary to bring relief to an urban environment," said Rose Gray, Director of Housing. "In the past, we would just build, build, and build on vacant land to get rid of these eyesores, but we soon learned that greening can do much more. The Jardines project is one shining example. Through greening, people in this community now feel safer and have a greater sense of home. And with PG's horticultural expertise, we'll be able to maintain all of the work that's been done for years to come."

Marcus Vidal, APM property manager, couldn't be more pleased about the change. "The work being done in the complex really got everyone excited, and it has brought them closer together," said Marcus. "Not only does everything look nice, but people want to keep it that way, too. Even the children are more careful of the gardens and have become very protective of them."

"It doesn't stop with Jardines, though," PG project manager, Don Holub added optimistically. "We want this relationship to continue and grow to include other positive changes in the community, including youth environmental programs, creating greenways, and beautifying other housing developments. In the end, it is all about the power of building partnerships with community development corporations such as APM, getting residents involved, restoring pride in their community, and, overall, trying to improve people's lives."

By Pamela Vu

FULL MOON HIKE
IN THE WISSAHICKON

Join Philadelphia Green Tree Tenders and other tree enthusiasts for an easy full moon stroll in the Wissahickon Park

- **Wednesday, July 28th 6:30-8:30 PM**
- **Meeting at 6049 Daniel St.**
- **In BlueBell Hill** (off of Walnut Ln., between Johnson and Wissahickon)
- Bring a Pot Luck dish to share and a reusable plate and cup
- Invite friends and family, Children are Welcome!
- RSVP to Mindy at 988-8844

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu**, (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org*; or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Phila., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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TWO GREEN THUMBS UP FOR THE POWELTON AVENUE GARDEN CLUB

"The recent garden project on our block has really brought the neighbors out and got people talking again," said Elizabeth Waring, a dedicated member of the Powelton Avenue Garden Club. "It has also re-established our commitment to addressing other ongoing concerns in the community." The group, comprised of residents of the 4000 block of Powelton Avenue and the 300 block of Wiota Street, is doing its part to reclaim vacant land in their neighborhood.

The Powelton Avenue Garden Club working tirelessly to build raised beds at the community garden on 4027-29 Powelton Avenue all in an effort to reclaim vacant land in their neighborhood.

The Garden Club was formed to develop the vacant lot located at 4027-29 Powelton Avenue into a community garden and small recreational area. Philadelphia Green's Garden Tenders (which sponsors a self-help, five-part training course for groups that want to improve their neighborhood by converting vacant lots into community gardens) helped the Garden Club members get their garden started. Classroom sessions, combined with on-site work, made it easier for neighbors to learn the proper techniques of gardening. Only those groups represented by three or more people at all five sessions were eligible to receive supplies for their gardens from PG. To encourage groups to grow vegetables in community gardens, staff also require that at least half of the garden be planted in vegetables.

"The whole Garden Tenders class came to help clear the area and learned how to build raised beds and use proper planting techniques," explained Elizabeth. "PG also provided top soil, wood chips, wheelbarrows, and other tools. Now, with the garden up and running, we all take turns watering. If you stop by, you'll see a lovely front border of flowers with tomatoes, peppers, okra, lettuce, and herbs growing in the garden. Not only has the garden helped to beautify the block, but it has also made us productive participants of our community."

In the future, the Garden Club hopes to build a recreational area within the garden where neighbors and friends can meet and hold community gatherings. "We're also starting a scrapbook to remind us how far we've come, all the way back from when we first applied for use of the plot back in January 1998, to what it is today," enthused Elizabeth. "It will also help us decide what the future holds in store for our special garden."

If you and your friends are interested in starting a community garden, call Dawn Johns at (215) 988-8845 for information.

By Pamela Vu

The Drought: What You Can Do, Can't Do, and Should Do to Conserve Water and Save Your Garden

What can you do to keep your garden alive?

• *Use grey water to water plants.* "Grey" water refers to all non-toilet wastewater created from household uses, such as water used in dishwashing, laundry, or dehumidification. Since grey water may contain questionable materials, it is best to apply directly to the soil surface by hand. Do not allow grey water to run off the soil's surface or to contact the stem or leaves of the plant. Applying composted materials to the area receiving grey water facilitates decomposition of residues in the water.

• *Use mulch.* Mulch keeps the soil cool and moist. Organic mulch can be created with straw, hay, leaves, grass clippings, pine needles, wood chips, sawdust, and black and white newspaper. Inorganic mulch can be made using black plastic sheeting. If you use black plastic sheeting, remember to cut holes to allow rainwater to penetrate and be advised that the sheeting does not improve the quality of your soil as does organic mulching.

• *Use composted soil.* Compost helps soil hold onto water and nutrients.

• *Use shading.* Use shade coverings to cool the soil and reduce moisture loss.

• *Know your plants' water requirements.* Reduce the

Continued on page 3

TREE LAB AT LEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LINKS SCHOOL WITH COMMUNITY

An energetic team of students, teachers, and community members took a giant step toward completing a courtyard garden at Lea Elementary School in West Philadelphia. The space was once a neglected and under-utilized corner, but it now houses a collection of handsome raised beds surrounded by colorful murals. This fall the garden will acquire additional beds and its first baby tree seedlings. These little trees will spend the first years of their lives growing in a large raised bed before graduating to a more public location in the surrounding community. With assistance from Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders, this Tree Lab will help to create a strong and tangible link between school and community.

Newly built raised beds and colorful murals breathe life into the Lea Elementary School garden.

On June 15, 1999, Lea students, staff, and community gathered for the unveiling of the school garden. The crowd admired the transformation of the garden space, while munching on appetizers donated by the White Dog Cafe. What makes the Lea School Garden so special is that students in nearby West Philadelphia High School, under the supervision of their teacher Willy Brown, constructed the raised beds and then donated their work to the elementary school. The sweat, talent, and craftsmanship that have gone into the garden impressed Lea School's many friends, including President of the University of Pennsylvania Dr. Judith Rodin and Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell. Cheryl Hazzard, the Principal of Lea School, praised the collaborative efforts of teachers Jeff Gaskins and Maria Pandolfi, who worked closely with Tree Tenders members Dr. Vivianne Nachmias and Esaul Sanchez.

As the Lea School Garden enters a new academic year, students from both Lea Elementary School and West Philadelphia High School will help select the tree seedlings that will be planted in the garden. Field trips to nearby nurseries and arboretums are planned to increase the students' knowledge and appreciation of tree species. PG staff members will continue to work with interested teachers at both schools to make sure that the garden lives up to its potential, turning the garden into an exciting outdoor teaching classroom.

Philadelphia educators are eligible to attend our next three-session training in urban tree care that will take place October 13th, 16th, and 20th. For more information about Tree Tenders Teachers please contact: Joan Blair (215) 988-8843. For more information about Tree Tenders, please contact: Mindy Maslin (215) 988-8844.

By Joan Blair, PG Youth Programs Coordinator

NEWS

Reclaiming Your Park

Saturday, October 16, 8:30pm-3:30pm
Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park

Attend this workshop to learn what you can do to actively promote cleaner, safer parks. Come listen to success stories from groups like yours who have effectively combated the problems in their parks. Also, hear from City representatives about resources available to help you in your fight, and collaborate with others to come up with workable strategies for your own park. Call Kate Lapszynski at (215) 685-0045, for more information.

Brown Bag Lunch Series:

Healthy Trees

Wednesday, October 6, noon-1:00pm
PHS Auditorium

ISA certified arborist **Lou Giroud** will discuss the keys to healthy trees. He'll cover basics such as selecting the right tree for your landscape, detecting signs of tree problems, coping with insects and diseases, and pruning. He'll also discuss how knowledge of tree biology and spray alternatives have changed methods of tree care. Bring your tree questions; ample time will be provided for problem solving. Lou Giroud is founder and president of Giroud Tree Service, which is celebrating its 25th year in business.

Attracting Butterflies

Tuesday, October 19, noon-1:00pm
PHS Auditorium

Join **Michael LoFurno** for a closer look at butterflies. Learn more about the life cycle of butterflies; how to identify some of the showier species that frequent our area; and how to attract them to your garden by planting the proper host plants and nectar sources. Michael will also give tips on observing, identifying, and rearing butterflies, including a look at field guides and equipment. Michael LoFurno, a registered landscape architect, is also an accomplished gardener, naturalist, and photographer. His photography has received awards from the New Jersey Mycological Association and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society.

Please bring a lunch; PHS will supply coffee and tea. Fee of $5 for each Brown Bag Lunch. For registration information, please call Sally Kutyla at (215) 988-8775 or Kimberly Dmytro at (215) 988-8869.

All About the Harvest Show

1999 Harvest Show, ***Harvest Luau*** will be held on September 18 & 19 at Fairmount Park's Horticulture Center. You'll see mouth-watering vegetables and glorious flowers; jars filled with preserved products of all kinds from pepper relish to elder-berry jelly; carefully designed major exhibits and more.

Pre-Show Workshop: Philadelphia Harvest Show Workshop, Part II

Monday, Sept. 13, 5:30-7pm
"The Spring Garden," 18th and Wallace Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Join Philadelphia Green and Penn State's Urban Gardening Program to get your entries ready for the Philadelphia Harvest Show. Learn how to prepare flowers, vegetables, herbs, and preserved products to win top prizes at the show. **Doris Stahl**, garden advisor from Penn State's Urban Gardening staff, will conduct this follow-up workshop at "The Spring Garden" in which we'll harvest the bounty from the test plot planted during the spring workshop. You are invited to attend free of charge, but please pre-register. To pre-register, please call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897. The Spring Garden is several blocks north of the Ben Franklin Parkway at 18th and Wallace. Travel directions will be mailed before the workshop.

Public Transportation to the Harvest Show

Take SEPTA Route #38 to Belmont and Montgomery. Walk from Montgomery to North Horticulture Drive and go through the gates to the Horticulture Center. Directions can also be found online at *www.septa.com*

Harvest Show Lectures and Demonstrations

Saturday, September 18

12:00 **Arranging Tropical Flowers**: Bernice Makin
1:00 **Fruity Herbs**: Lorraine Kiefer, Triple Oaks Nursery & Herb Farm
2:00 **Fall in the Vegetable Garden**: Doris Stahl, Penn State Urban Gardening Program
3:00 Chef's Choice: Kitchen Basics & Improvisations: Greg Funk, executive chef, Honeywell

Sunday, September 19

12:00 **Ka-bob It!**: Eva Monheim, Eve's Floral Creations
1:00 **Tropical Plants All Year**: Michael Bowell, Create A Scene
2:00 **Herbal Spas and Facials**: Jeannine Vannais, Historic Herbalist, Pennsbury Manor

Put on Your Dancin' Shoes at the Harvest Party Square Dance

Join other community gardeners for a Harvest Party on Saturday, September 18, 6-8:30pm to celebrate this season's successes. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

Enter the Second Annual Great Pumpkin Pie Contest

When: Register at the Show on Saturday, September 18 by noon.
How: Come with a 9" pumpkin pie and recipe printed on a 3" 5" index card. Winners will be announced at the Show (you do not have to be present to win) or contacted by telephone. For more information, please call Maria Dmyterko, (215) 988-8836.

Bring Kids to the Children's Tent Open Throughout the Show

Learn about gardening, butterflies, worms, and much more at the Junior Gardener's Studio. Paint pumpkins, make leaf and seed masks, play the apple game inside the tent, or join in the Children's Parade. On the back lawn, play the autumn games: Sack Slalom, Bean Bag Putt, and Pumpkin Push, and make scarecrows. See what all the buzz is about. Stop by and see Robert Harvey of Harvey's Honey don his famous bee beard. Little ones can play in the toddler hay area.

Visit our newly expanded **Harvest Marketplace**. This year we introduce the Fountain Marketplace, adjacent to the Centennial Fountain. You will find tropical flowers and plants, orchids, chili pepper plants, cut flowers, garden furniture, sculpture and statuary, interior water gardens, gourmet food, potpourri, fragrance oils, gardening snowmen and santas, and gifts galore.
Hours of the Marketplace: Friday, September 17, 11am-7pm; Saturday and Sunday, September 18 & 19, 10am-5pam. If you would like to participate as a Marketplace Exhibitor, call Rosemary McGeary at (215) 988-1609 or email *rmcgeary@pennhort.org*

Entering the Harvest Show

Entering the Show ahead of time will put you in the express lane at registration time and will help us enormously. To enter, please fill out the form below. You can make entries without pre-registering by bringing them in during Registration (see dates and times in the box).

Getting Your Entry to the Show

- Stake container plants for extra support.
- Cut holes in overturned cartons; place pots in cut-outs for added security.
- A rod attached to the clothes hanging fixture in the car will support hanging baskets. Secure the rod or pole by sticking it between the window and the top of the car door; roll the window up as far as it will go to prevent slipping. To keep plant from swinging, attach it to a brick or cinder block below the seat.
- A bucket with a weight in the bottom and stuffed with newspaper will also support a hanging basket during transport.
- When bringing vegetables or fruit for entry, pack each set of entries in a separate bag with their completed entry tag. Too much time spent sorting entries at the Show could mean missed deadlines.
- Transport flowers in water if possible to prevent wilting. Avoid spills by filling jars only half way and standing them up in a box or bucket packed loosely with newspaper. Don't leave them sitting in the car in the sun while you unload other things.

When to Register

Thursday, September 16,
3:30-7pm
Friday, September 17,
7:30-10am

Where to Register

The Fairmount Park Horticulture Center is located on Horticulture Drive, near the intersection of Montgomery & Belmont Aves., in the West Park. Entry aides at the gate will direct you to the proper registration area.

HARVEST SHOW ENTRY FORM

Please complete and mail to: Harvest Show Community Garden Entries, PHS N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. For entry tags, please call Flossie, (215) 988-8897.

Exhibitor _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ PHS Member?___Yes___No

First Time Harvest Show Exhibitor? ___Yes ___No

Community Garden _____

Please Check Entry Type:____ Preserved Product ____ Baked Goods ____ Horticulture ____Youth

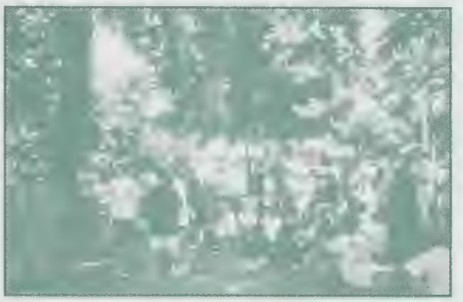
M-Fuge Volunteers Give Parks a Helping Hand

Revitalizing an urban park or square and keeping it well maintained is by no means an easy task. Indeed, it takes an active community group, a strong partnership with the Department of Recreation, and the added help of volunteer organizations. This summer, Malcolm X Memorial Park, Carroll Park, and Wissinoming Park are fortunate enough to be hosting volunteers from the M-Fuge program, a faith-based project which runs out of Nashville, Tennessee.

"These kids are really a blessing to the park," lauds Carroll Park neighbor, Bertha Parker. "You don't find a lazy one in the bunch." Every Monday through Thursday, each park welcomes 50 M-Fuge volunteers. During the course of the day, they combine active work in the park with games, stories, music, sports, and activities for dozens of neighborhood children. The end result is a park that is not only spotless, but overflowing with laughter, music, and the beautiful sound of children playing and enjoying the summer in their communities. In some parks, volunteers have expanded their work to include painting and repairing homes and churches in surrounding neighborhoods.

The volunteers are students from 7th to 12th grade and are generally from the South. Volunteers and their supervisors stay for a week of service (Cabrini College is hosting the volunteers), and pay their own way for the opportunity to participate. "It's very exciting to see young people giving up part of their summer to volunteer," says Philadelphia Director Mary Boswell. "Many of these students have never been to the Northeast to experience the challenges and triumphs of an inner city." M-Fuge member Andrea DeFoor has been impressed with the parks in Philadelphia. "These parks are beautiful. They're clean, safe, and very active. So many people come out with their kids or to sit and enjoy themselves."

Over 300 M-Fuge volunteers are working each week in Philadelphia, not only at the three parks, but also at homeless shelters, food banks, nursing homes, and YMCAs. Nationally, the program is doing similar projects in six cities. Philadelphia hopes they'll return here next year to continue their good work in our parks and communities.



M-Fuge volunteers take a moment out of their active workday at Carroll Park for fun-filled games, stories, music, and other activities.

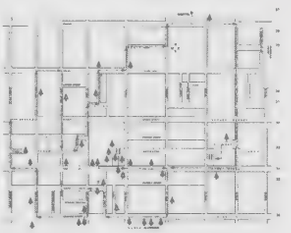
The park groups would like to give a special thanks to Miles Burton from Philadelphia Neighborhood Housing Services for connecting them to the M-Fuge program.

By Jeff Tober, PG Project Coordinator

HAPPY TRAILS

MAPPING THE TREES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Tree Tenders of Washington Square West Civic Association (WSWCA) recently created a map featuring the trees in their community, which also serves as a teaching tool for all ages to learn tree identification and worth. Join WSWCA for a guided tour on **Sunday, October 3**, at **3pm**. Meet at Kahn Park at 11th and Pine Streets. Refreshments will be served. For more information and a brochure about the many tree varieties in the Washington Square West neighborhood, call Virginia at (215) 545-3260.



Drought Continued from page 1

amount of inefficient and wasted watering by growing crops with fewer days to maturity. Be sure not to overwater crops already growing. Grow crops with low water requirements, such as squash, cucumbers, pumpkins, broccoli, and herbs.

• *Irrigate efficiently*. When you water, make sure that water is only going to the roots. Water early in the morning or late in the evening to minimize moisture loss to evaporation. Make sure all hose connections are tight, and use an automatic shut-off nozzle on the hose.

For more information:
The State Department of Environmental Protection has a drought information home page at *http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought/drought.htm*

Fall For Your Park

You're invited! Join hundreds of Philadelphians who care about their Parks for the first annual **"Fall For Your Park"** city-wide cleanup and celebration event on **Saturday, September 18, 1999.**

Community members from Philadelphia's neighborhoods will take to their local Department of Recreation parks in force to clean, play, have picnics, and celebrate! Our neighborhood parks are community treasures, and Fall For Your Park will be an opportunity to honor their importance and positive impact. Activities will be held from **9 am-1 pm** at parks throughout the city. After the celebration, join us and other park tenders from across the city for the Fall For Your Park reception and Philadelphia Green's Harvest party at the Horticulture Center. Call Judy Heany at (215) 988-8878 for more information.

CAMDEN CHILDREN'S GARDEN OFFERS A WORLD OF WONDER, FOLKLORE, AND AMUSEMENT FOR KIDS YOUNG AND OLD

The Camden Children's Garden opened with fanfare on July 3, 1999. Crowds braved sizzling temperatures to visit the whimsical 4.5-acre public garden on Camden's waterfront. Lying adjacent to the New Jersey State Aquarium, it is comprised of a dozen exciting, interactive exhibits. More importantly, it's a place where children and adults can discover the natural world and engage their imagination.

With support from the City Council and Mayor Milan; Camden County Board of Freeholders; Governor Christine Whitman; the State of New Jersey; Delaware River Port Authority; Showboat and Harrah's Casinos; the Hamilton Family, William Penn, and Campbell Soup Foundations; Pew Charitable Trusts, as well as the Cooper's Ferry Development Corp., it wasn't long before the conceptual plan was drawn up. Soon after, grants were applied for and received from the government, foundations, and corporate communities.

Rodney Robinson Landscape Architects of Wilmington, DE; Philadelphia architects Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates; and Dommert-Phillips made up the talented team of designers.

As you enter the garden, you arrive at the *Violet Plaza*, named for the New Jersey State Flower. The pavement is imprinted with violets and alive with jumping jet and jewel fountains. As you continue down the path, an inviting *Tree House* beckons you to climb it for a bird's eye view of the Garden and the Philadelphia skyline. Underneath the Tree House is the *Red Oak Run* maze that presents a worm's eye view of soil structure with tunnels and winding paths.

Many other whimsical themes are incorporated such as a *Dinosaur Garden* with sculptures, waterfalls and ponds; and *Storybook Gardens* where the Three Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk, Alice in Wonderland, and a Frog Prince reside in various horticultural environments. There's also a *Piney Woods Amphitheater*; *Butterfly Garden* where a Walt Whitman sculpture has found a home; *Picnic Garden* where food crops grow among giant cups, plates and ants; and of course, the very popular *Carousel*.

The Garden is open 9:30am - 5:30pm daily, through September 16. For more information about Garden membership, please call (856) 365-TREE.

By Michael Devlin, Executive Director, Camden Children's Garden

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu**, (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org*; or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Philla., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
(215)988-8800

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

New Kensington CDC Gains National Recognition for Open Space Management Program with the 1999 "Best Practice Award"

New Kensington's Community Development Corporation's (NKCDC) Open Space Management program has received the prestigious U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) **"Best Practice Award."** Of the more than 3500 organizations nominated nationwide, only 100 were selected to receive the award.

In 1995, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program and NKCDC initiated the New Kensington Open Space Management program to deal with the growing concern of vacant land in this neighborhood. Within the first three years of the program, community residents cleaned and greened 300 plots of vacant land, built community gardens and parks, and developed a process for transferring abandoned vacant lots to homeowners. Through greening activities, residents have taken an active role in reclaiming vacant land.

Other programs including housing counseling and Job Net have also contributed to the success of NKCDC's Open Space management program. "This award is the result of many people pulling together to make change in the community and take back the neighborhood," said Sandy Salzman, NKCDC Executive Director. While speaking at a conference, Salzman urged others to take NKCDC's lead and replicate similar open space management programs in their communities. Simply put, the program works because everyone involved believes in it and goes about making it a reality.

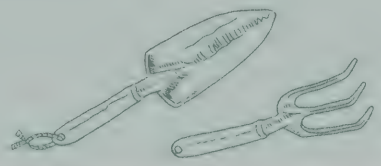
The program's manager, Paul Malvey, credits many of its partners and countless volunteers for the program's success. With the help of PHS, the city's Office of Housing and Community Development, William Penn Foundation, National Tree Trust, Bell Atlantic-PA, Prime Bank, the Corporation for National Service, volunteers from the U.S. Navy and KPMG Certified Public Accountants, the NKCDC Board of Directors, former NKCDC employees, and the hundreds of community residents who volunteered their Saturdays, the program has become a model for other communities dealing with the growing problem of vacant land.

—By Don Holub, Philadelphia Green project manager

Garden Tips for October

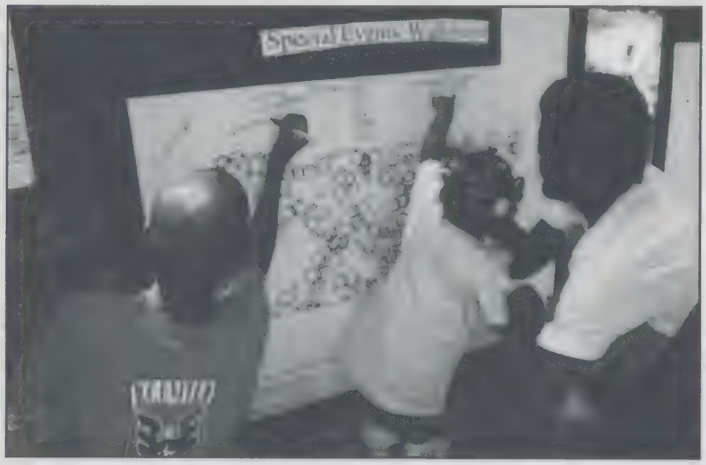
- Now is the time to select and plant spring-blooming bulbs, available at area garden centers or by catalog. When planting bulbs, large platter-size holes can be dug to place many bulbs in at once for a clustered effect (6-8 inches average depth, depending on size of bulb). Or they can be planted singularly, to give a more scattered or sparse appearance.
- Thin out spring- and midsummer-blooming perennials with more than two or three flower clusters. Dividing them now will enable the new clusters to enlarge for next year. This is the time when perennials put their energy into root production for more robust plant growth next season.
- Make notes on how well your garden performed this season. A dry season like 1999's could reveal those plants that are drought hardy or drought intolerant. These notes will help in planning garden varieties for the following season. It's a great idea to have a variety of plants that are hardy in drought, as well as in wet conditions.
- If you are thinking of forcing bulbs, plant them in containers now for next year's enjoyment. Set bulb pans out in a cold frame, or heel them in and cover them with leaves. When bulbs begin to emerge above the surface of the pan, they can be brought into the house for forcing. (If refrigerator space is available, store bulb pans in the refrigerator until they start to emerge from the soil and then bring them out to force.)

—Eva Monheim



Community Has a Say in Vernon Park Revitalization

When it comes to parks, kids have a thing or two to say about them. After all, they are the ones who test the resilience of the grounds, and are likely to have a more intimate knowledge of the park in their neighborhood than adults. So, when it came time for the Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) to choose a park for its "100 Years/100 Parks Initiative," they went to Vernon Park and sought input from the children, as well as the community groups.



Children write down a wish list of suggestions for improving Vernon Park.

Local residents have been highly involved in Vernon Park's improvement for many years in partnership with Philadelphia Green and the Department of Recreation. It is this commitment that forged the new partnership between ASLA and Vernon Park. Ultimately, "a master plan" for the park will be drawn to address four main areas: *physical development*, *maintenance, programming*, and *park group development*.

During the summer, PG staff worked with the Friends of Vernon Park and ASLA to gather community input from local businesses and neighborhood organizations, churches, seniors, and children. The groups discussed lighting, walkways, security, trees and flower bed plantings, music and art programming, and special events. At this year's annual Vernon Park People's Festival, kids were treated to ice cream and asked to write down a wish list of things they would like to see happen in their park. Everything from "We'd like more play activities," to "We need picnic tables and benches," to "I want to see more pretty trees" was suggested.

The excitement continues this fall as Temple University Landscape Architecture students join the collaboration to improve the park. They will help compile the information gathered from the community this summer and work with ASLA members to create a tentative master plan. For further information on Vernon Park and the ongoing work of PG's Parks Revitalization Project, call Lisa Mosca at (215) 988-1608.

—By Lisa Mosca, PG project coordinator

UPCOMING

Be A Tree Tenders Teacher: Learn Tree Care and Get Your Students Involved in Community Service
Wednesday, October 13, 4-7pm
Saturday, October 16, 10am-1pm
Wednesday, October 20, 4-7pm
Classes demonstrate how to involve students in tree care and create successful community-based service learning projects related to tree care and the environment. This 9-hour training will be held at PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Phila. *Free.* If interested, call Joan Blair at (215) 988-8843.

Putting Your Garden to Bed for the Winter
Saturday, October 23, 10am-noon
Aspen Farms, 49th and Aspen
Learn how to clean up your garden for the winter, prepare perennials and shrubs for the winter by mulching and watering the soil to hold it over till spring, and use compost. *Free.* Please call Dawn Johns, (215) 988-8845, to register.

Drought Hotline Numbers and Drought Websites for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware
PENNSYLVANIA
Drought Hotline: (888) 457-6653
www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought/drought.htm

NEW JERSEY
Drought Hotline: (800) 448-7379
www.state.nj/infobank/circular/ao99-08.htm/dep/watersupply/precip.htm

DELAWARE
Drought Hotline: (877) 729-3362
www.dnrec.state.de.us

For Information on How to Subscribe to the Community Gardening List Serve Visit
http://secure.mallorn.com/mailman/listinfo/community_garden. This list was established to allow Master Gardeners and others interested in developing or enhancing community gardening programs to communicate via email.

TREE PLANTING TAKES ROOT IN SOUTH PHILADELPHIA

A small but powerful cadre of Tree Tenders is changing the landscape of South Philadelphia, one tree and one neighbor at a time. Following the highly successful, massive tree planting in South Philadelphia, Tree Tenders Susan Petrone and Peter Verrecchia organized a "Town Meeting" at St. John's Baptist Church for neighbors to learn about basic tree care and awareness, and get rooted in their community.

Through the gentle prodding of Susan and Peter, state legislators have begun to see the value of tree planting and the need for funding. In fact, two political figures have already taken to these ideas. State Senator Vincent Fumo's organization, working with the Fairmount Park Commission, planted 160 trees this past summer. Councilman Frank DiCicco through his environmental organization "Citizens Alliance for Better Neighborhoods" planted an impressive 600 trees over the past three years.

To make sure the successive planting is an enduring one, Susan and Peter, along with neighbors Charlie Rogers and Jimmy Johnson, went door-to-door to distribute leaflets and talk to neighbors about tree care. They've also pruned, watered, and mulched trees, teaching interested neighbors the "how - to's" along the way; and even planted trees themselves in Columbus Square and along the street. Their work is catching on and South Philly is becoming a testament to how a few people can make a big difference.

—Mindy Maslin, Philadelphia Green project manager

Gardens for the New Millennium

Volunteer at the 2000 Philadelphia Flower Show

Join us at the Pennsylvania Convention Center as a behind-the-scenes volunteer from March 3-10, 2000. If you would like to help, check the roles that interest you and return this form to PHS. Be on the lookout for more Flower Show volunteer opportunities in future issues of the PHS News.

Exhibitor Aides—Help exhibitors transport plants from D Hall to freight elevator and to entry area. Entry level job.
Runners—Carry cards for corrections to and from typing table. Entry level job.
Recorders—Log information for a plant's entry in the Show. Attention to detail and an ability to keep calm under pressure required.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Phone (Day) _____

Please return to Betty Greene, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495 by **November 1, 1999**. We will contact you with more information.

Sidebar:
When posting notices or flyers around your neighborhood, use street posts or telephone poles instead of trees. Staples, nails, and other sharp objects will damage the bark and can eventually kill our living friends. So please, don't unwittingly hurt our trees.

MORE TREES, PLEASE

David Braun and Rose Marie Pasicznyk (*left*) inspect a newly planted hornbeam (birch family) in front of Michael Clark's newly renovated home on North Kewkirk Street.

Since 1989, Rose Marie Pasicznyk and Fran Bowden—both members of Fairmount Tree Tenders—have been busily planting trees along the streets of Fairmount. Ten years have passed and 100 trees later, they're still at it. In fact, they've set their sights on planting 100 more trees and appointed fellow Tree Tender David Braun to help coordinate the effort.

"Fairmount Tree Tenders is the most rewarding endeavor I've embarked on," said David. "This year alone, we've seen a 30% jump in the number of trees planted, and there's already a waiting list for next year. I think people have come to realize both the real estate and aesthetic value of planting a street tree on their property."

Townscapes is providing the community with affordable, quality trees. Each tree costs $275, with homeowners/business owners paying $175 and the Fairmount Civic Association paying the balance.

To boast, Fairmount is the only neighborhood in Philadelphia with five graduating Tree Tender classes. Tree Tenders are trained by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program. To add your name to our Y2K tree request list, please contact David Braun at (215) 684-1234.

—By David Braun, Fairmount Tree Tenders Team Member

Native Woodland of Roxborough Park Finds Its Roots Again

When the Friends of Gorgas Park began to restore this long-neglected park in Roxborough, they didn't just eliminate the overgrown woodland in the southwest corner of the park. Instead, they cultivated and maintained it as a native woodland and used the experience to learn about the local ecology.

For many years, this area of the park was used as a dumpsite for construction work done in surrounding Roxborough. Although the dumping eventually ceased, much of the southwest corner remained undeveloped, while a dense thicket of brambles began growing atop the rubble left behind. The thicket became dominated by a vigorous grove of American elms. In the tree canopy grew native black cherries and black locust, as well as invasive Norway maples and mulberries. Beneath the arching branches of the elms grew native oaks, boxelder, blackberry, and raspberry tangled with the invasives, multiflora rose and wine berry. Where the roots of the many elms flared out in stout buttresses, native spiderwort, snakeberry, dewberry, pathrush, pokeweed, Virginia creeper, and violets grew, in spite of the invasive Japanese honeysuckle and Japanese bittersweet.

Along with the Friends of Gorgas Park, volunteer groups from Temple, Roxborough High School, M-Fuge (a faith-based youth group out of Tennessee), and others helped to cultivate the native woodland. They removed invasive plants, installed erosion controls, planted native flora, and landscaped the area with schist boulders. Philadelphia's Water Department lent a hand, too. Not only did the community benefit from student involvement, but students are also able to learn more about the local ecology and their role in maintaining it (something that can't be taught in the classroom alone).

Today, people from the neighborhood can wander along the winding wood-chip trails in the woodland where they wouldn't dare go before. They can experience the native flora which is now enriched with the addition of sassafras, hickory, paw paw, pitch pines, and more than 40 other native woody-plant species. Scattered around the many plants are schist boulders studded with garnet stones. And where there once was a gully, now back-filled logs slow down and divert the water, so that it slowly percolates into the soil beneath the woodland.

If you are interested in being part of the future of Gorgas Park's native-woodland project, please contact John Boyce at (215) 487-3725.

—By David Michael, Philadelphia Green project coordinator

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu**, (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org*; or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Philа., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

SUN CIRCLE SHINES IN NORTH PHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD

Mildred Peterkin and her husband Thomas live around the corner from Sun Circle Garden (at the NW corner of 17th and Westmoreland)—one of the Keystone gardens that shares a long history with Philadelphia Green and serves as a model for community gardens.

When Mildred and Thomas first moved to North Philadelphia in 1952, the area was prospering. "Before the garden was started, there was a delicatessen on this spot," says Mildred. "And across the street from the delicatessen was a drug store. Now, many of the same families have moved away, leaving empty houses behind. For those of us who stayed, we knew something had to be done."

"There were 13 of us who originally started the garden in 1986," explains Mildred. "We attended workshops and sought help from Philadelphia Green to make it all happen. Before that, we had PG plant street trees on our block."

Upon entering the garden, a brick pathway leads you to a large central circular flower bed, bordered with dwarf English boxwood. The beds are planted with Jackson & Perkins 'Pink Carpet' roses, cypress 'Sungold,' and lavender. In the center of the circle, sits a pedestal topped with a radiant sundial donated by a PHS member. With the help of PG staffer Mary Buckno, stepping stone paths and a circular walkway made of flagstone were installed this past spring. Vegetable beds, benches, trees, and shrubs complete the garden, giving it a verdant, park-like feel.

"Our volunteers—Thomas Peterkin, Joseph Robinson, Leona Robinson, Mrs. Mason Lovelace, and Irene Butler—really keep the garden going, but we can't do a lot of things," admits Mildred. "So, once a year we have a barbecue and sell dinners to raise money to pay for someone to come do the heavier maintenance work."

Mildred's youthfulness and energy belie her 80-plus years. But it's gardening at Sun Circle, she claims, that keeps her young and energetic and, better still, in touch with her community.

—By Pamela Vu

THE 20TH ANNUAL ACGA CONFERENCE ENDS ON AN "UPBEET" NOTE

Coming from as far away as England, attendees of the 20th Annual American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) Conference met in Philadelphia on September 30 - October 3, 1999, to educate, entertain, and celebrate the gardening spirit.

This year's theme, "Keep Dancing to the Beet," is a reminder to us all to keep up the pace of garden preservation and revitalization of our public spaces.

More than 100 speakers addressed topics ranging from leadership development to youth programs, to preservation and open space. Recognizing that above all these are gardeners who like to be out in the open air and working with the earth, field trips to Philadelphia's community gardens, tree blocks, parks and public landscapes were organized. Participants were given an up-close look at our area's most innovative greening projects and the opportunity to share experiences with other gardeners.

Other highlights included a dramatic reading by Lynn and David Hassler from *A Place to Grow: Voices and Images of Urban Gardeners*. Through their storytelling, these Cleveland urban gardeners urged others to tell their stories to increase public awareness of the value of gardening in our cities. One session went so far as to use masks, costumes, and conga drums to illustrate the richness of different cultures in one community.

But what attendees valued most about the conference was meeting old friends and making new friends, learning about other programs, and sharing gardening experiences.

Hosts of the event included The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program, Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust, Penn State Cooperative Extension's Urban Gardening Program, Delaware Center for Horticulture (Wilmington), and Isles, Inc. (Trenton).

Special thanks to Mayor Ed Rendell for his warm welcome to all the participants and to keynote speaker Commissioner Mike DiBerardinis who spoke on "How to Build and Navigate Relationships with City Government and Large Institutions."

UPCOMING

The Wagner Free Institute of Science Presents Two Free 6-Week Courses

PHS and the Wagner Free Institute of Science have come together again to co-sponsor two free 6-week courses. Both will be held at the PHS offices, 100 North 20th Street, 5th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. The courses, **Plant Symbioses** and **Plant Growth Regulators**, are free and open to the public. Owing to space limitations, however, pre-registration is required. To pre-register, please call (215) 763-6529, ext. 23. When you pre-register, ask for a catalog or a reading list.

Plant Symbioses
Monday, January 24 - Monday, February 28, 2000
Plants form an amazing range of associations with other organisms. This mini-course will examine the variety of symbiotic relationships with bacteria, fungi, animals and other plants and will put each in the context of plant adaptation and survival.

Plant Growth Regulators
Monday, March 27 - Monday May 1, 2000
The normal growth and development of plants are controlled by environmental factors and a wide variety of natural biochemicals produced by the plant. This course will examine the role of plant hormones and growth substances, their uses as plant growth regulators and herbicides, and the principles of hormone response in a plant.

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Handmade Papers
Wednesday, November 10, Noon - 1:00pm
PHS Auditorium
Use the plants in your garden as the source for a different sort of harvest. **Winnie Radolan** will demonstrate how to turn garden vegetables such as onions, celery, and leeks into beautiful and unique handmade papers. Have a look at this process, step by step, and be inspired to create your own exquisite papers for stationery, picture frames, and crafts. An artist and educator, Winnie has been fascinated with making papers by hand from a variety of plant materials for more than 10 years. She directed the papermaking program at Historic Rittenhouse Town for eight years, and now through Winnie's Paperworks. Please bring a bag lunch; PHS will supply tea and coffee. Fee: $5.

Floral Arranging Demonstration: Holiday Decorating New Twists on Traditional Techniques
Wednesday, December 1, Noon - 1:00pm
PHS Auditorium
Get ready for holiday decorating! It's easy and fun with new techniques for traditional arrangements and innovative designs. Experienced arranger **Jane Godshalk** will show you how to combine seasonal greens and flowers that will "wow" others. Jane Godshalk is a graduate of the Longwood Gardens Certificate Program in Floral Design. She is a frequent exhibitor and winner in both the Philadelphia Flower and Harvest Shows. Fee: $10.

For registration information on these activities, please call Sally Kutyla at 215-988-8775 or Kimberly Dmytro at 215-988-8869.

Calling All Neighborhood Leaders

Are you a Philadelphia resident? Do you want to save money on energy costs? The City of Philadelphia, the state of Pennsylvania, and the Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring a new neighborhood-based environmental education program, called "The Philadelphia Sustainable Lifestyle Campaign." By participating in this program, you can cut down on your energy bills, help make your neighborhoods safer, and learn how to better steward natural resources at home. We are looking for neighborhood volunteers to help pioneer this exciting new program. For more information, please call Lauri Brunton or Amy Hammersmith at 215-751-9398.

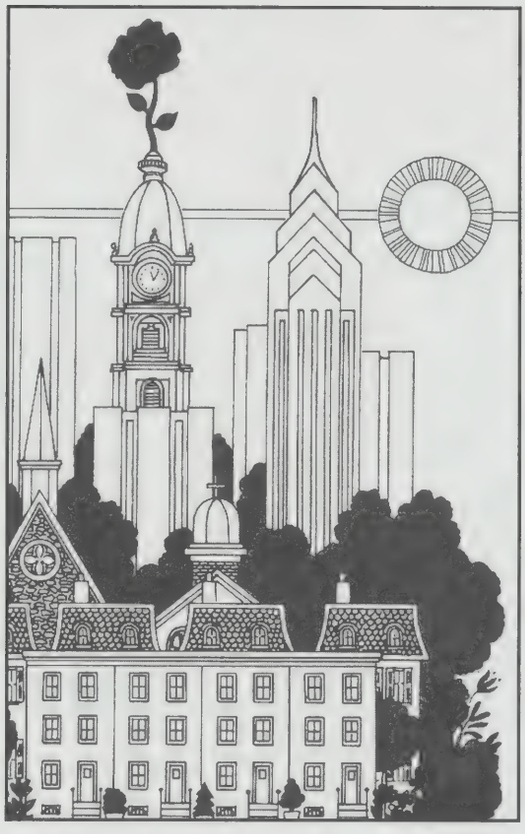
"Party for the Parks" to Celebrate Philadelphia Green's Volunteers

Calling all Park Volunteers! You've worked hard all year, picking up trash, painting benches, sweeping walkways, and doing many other things to keep your park clean, safe and beautiful. Now it's time to celebrate!

Please join us for the third annual "Party for the Parks" in early December. We are thrilled to announce **Charles Jordan**, the Director of Portland, Oregon's Department of Parks and Recreation, as the featured speaker. Mr. Jordan has been a champion of parks and open spaces in Portland and is widely recognized as the leading voice for urban parks in the United States.

The program will feature Volunteer of the Year Awards, a holiday gift exchange among park groups, VIP speakers, and much more. The Horticulture Center is located near the intersection of Belmont and Montgomery Avenue and is accessible by I-76 and West River Drive. Public transportation from center city is available via the #38 bus.

Although invitations have been sent out, the event is open to all park volunteers from across the Philadelphia area. The time and place of the event to be announced. For more information, please call Jeff Tober at (215) 988-8764.



1999 City Gardens Contest Winners

Every year, the City Gardens Contest, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in cooperation with Penn State's Urban Gardening Program, challenges Philadelphia gardeners to compete for prizes and bragging rights in creating imaginative and thriving gardens. Not only do they meet the challenge, they go beyond to create "pieces of paradise" that often are overlooked amidst the urban landscape. Categories include vegetable, flower, container gardens, and green blocks.

So, without further adieu, here are the 1999 City Gardens Contest winners in the Community categories.

Community Children's Gardens

1st **William Penn High School**
John Unger & Kids

2nd **2600 E. Dauphin Street**
Regina Clark, Mary Thomas & Kids

2nd **John Wanamaker Middle School**
Julia Unger & Kids

3rd **Saint Peter's Church School**
Susan Ross & Kids

3rd **Vare Middle School**
Larry Stier & Kids

Community Combination Gardens

1st Year

1st **1342 S. 5th Street**
Gina Caruso & Neighbors

2nd **2021-23 N. 3rd Street**
Brenda Pedro & Neighbors

3rd **410 Emerick Street**
Helen and John Gindle & Neighbors

Small

1st **Fitzwater 2000 Community Garden**
Stephen Maciejewski & Neighbors

2nd **Southwest Corner of 55th & Baltimore Avenue**
Marion Bush & Neighbors

3rd **Crosky Street (behind 2201 Cherry Street)**
Vickie and Justin Kirsten & Neighbors

3rd **1622-26 West Page Street**
Ellouise Newkirk & Neighbors

Mid-size

1st **Ella Francis Garden**
James Stanley & Neighbors

2nd **619 Catharine Street**
Vincent Carnuccio & Neighbors

3rd **Sun Circle Garden**
Mildred Peterkin & Neighbors

Large

1st **25th & Tasker Streets**
Josephine Jackson & Neighbors

2nd **4700 Block of Warrington Avenue**
JoAnn Fishburn, Judy Gernon, & Neighbors

3rd **Norris Square Neighborhood Project**
Iris Brown & Neighbors

3rd **Aspen Farms**
Hayward Ford & Neighbors

Very Large

1st **The Spring Garden**
Stephan and Kit White & Neighbors

2nd **Schuylkill River Park Community Garden**
Maggie Dugan & Neighbors

3rd **Liberty Lands**
Marita Fitzpatrick & Neighbors

Community Flower Gardens

Small

1st **Horticultural Center - Montgomery & Horticultural Drive**
Peggy Garrett & Neighbors

2nd **Stillman & Parrish Streets**
Jane Gourley & Neighbors

3rd **2600 E. Dauphin Street**
Regina Clark, Mary Thomas, & Neighbors

3rd **4523 Hedge Street**
Helen Flowers & Neighbors

Mid-size

1st **Michener Avenue & Vernon Road**
Cecelia Izzard & Neighbors

2nd **Corner of 27th Street & Montgomery Avenue**
Goldie Bowden, Louise Hinton & Neighbors

Large

1st **2120-2124 Fitzwater Street**
Kathleen Garvin & Neighbors

2nd **3615 Chestnut Street**
Beverly Agard & Neighbors

3rd **Norris Square Neighborhood Project**
Iris Brown & Neighbors

Community Garden Blocks

1st **1500 Block of E. Berks Street**
Paula Hudy & Neighbors

2nd **1700 Block of W. Edgley Street**
Dollie Pinckney & Neighbors

3rd **5000 Block of Portico Street**
Gloria Blair & Neighbors

3rd **3700 Block of N. 15th Street**
Minnie Radcliffe & Neighbors

Greenest Block in Town

1st **2200 Block of Emerald Street**
Maria Ramos & Neighbors

2nd **1100 Block of Snyder Avenue**
John Castagno & Neighbors

Community Parks

1st **Gorgas Park**
Sandy Yannatell & Neighbors

2nd **Cianfrani Park**
Dennis McGlade & Neighbors

3rd **Elmwood Park**
Len Pannirello & Neighbors

Community Tree Farms

1st **Center in the Park Tree Farm**
Jean Holland & Neighbors

2nd **1000 Kimball Street**
Carla Puppin, John Snyder & Neighbors

3rd **11th Street Tree Farm/Community (1100-04 South Street)**
Allison Weiss & Neighbors

Community Tree Labs

1st **J. H. Brown School**
Michael Weiss & Kids

2nd **Harding Middle School**
Carol Vanagitis & Kids

3rd **Meade School**
Ellen Lube & Kids

Community Vegetable Gardens

Small

1st **1933-1945 N. 31st Street**
Maron Faison & Neighbors

2nd **Seedy Acres**
Sally McCabe & Neighbors

3rd **12 S. 43rd Street**
Naomi B. Adams & Neighbors

Mid-size

1st **Southwark Queen Village**
Jed Campbell & Neighbors

1st **Kimball Street Community Garden**
Carla Puppin & Neighbors

2nd **28th & Cambria Streets**
Adrienne Izzard & Neighbors

3rd **Asian Americans United**
Hao Li & Neighbors

Large

1st **1500 Grays Ferry Avenue**
Gladys Davis & Neighbors

2nd **1801 W. Glenwood Avenue**
James Taylor & Neighbors

Congratulations to Winners for a Wonderful Gardening Season

Celebrating the Bounty of Local Gardeners at the 1999 Harvest Show

Colorful scenes of children painting pumpkins, shoppers at the open farm markets, and curious gardeners listening in on gardening-and-craft

Mollyann Fischer of Merion, PA receives a blue ribbon for her "Bounty by the Basket."

demonstrations gave visitors a taste of an old-time country fair fun for the whole family.

Despite a last-minute hurricane that hit upon the heels of the worst drought in decades, this year's entrants took exceptional pride in their winnings. Gardeners competed in horticultural and artistic categories that included design, fruits and vegetables, herbs, flowers, pressed plant materials, baked goods, and preserved products. There were 1,698 entries from over 1,400 individual gardeners and 23 community gardens.

Sweepstakes winners from this year include:

- PHS Community Garden Sweepstakes Certificate to the Community Garden winning the greatest number of blue ribbons in the Show: **Fitzwater 2000**.
- Community Gardens Sweepstakes Winners
  Small Garden:
  (1st) **Vare Middle School**;
  (2nd) **Orianna Hill**;
  (3rd) **Garden of Gesthemane**
  Medium Garden:
  (1st) **Fitzwater 2000**;
  (2nd) **St. Johns Organic**;
  (3rd) **Las Porcelas**
  Large Garden:
  (1st) **Southwark Queen Village**;
  (2nd) **Seedy Acres**;
  (3rd) **Summer-Winter Garden**
- PHS Club Sweepstakes Certificate to the Horticultural Organization winning the greatest number of blue ribbons: **Philadelphia Cactus and Succulent Society**.

Past winner Jon Fossum (*left*) and John Souci (*right*) from Tastybaking Co. served as judges for this year's Great Pumpkin-Pie Contest.

PARKS SPARKLE AT THE FIRST ANNUAL 'FALL FOR YOUR PARK'

This September 18th, over 400 energetic Philadelphians came out for the first annual "Fall For Your Park" event sponsored by the Recreation Department and Philadelphia Green. The volunteers spent the day cleaning and celebrating at their local parks throughout the city.

Volunteers created new gardens, bundled fallen branches, painted benches and play equipment, mulched and pruned trees, held flea markets, cleared paths, and removed litter and graffiti. Department of Recreation staff organized a special trash pickup and provided a chipper for larger branches that volunteers gathered.

"Fall For Your Park" volunteers at Malcolm X Memorial Park work up a sweat while cleaning their park.

By lunch time, the parks sparkled. The perfect weather drew park volunteers sporting 'Fall For Your Park' t-shirts to the Harvest Show, via the free bus shuttle provided by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Later that evening, Department of Recreation Commissioner Mike DiBerardinis and PG Executive Vice President Blaine Bonham thanked and applauded the volunteers' efforts at a reception at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. Park volunteers enjoyed the food and music of the Harvest Party and relaxed while reflecting on the day's achievements.

Special thanks to the volunteers from City Year, Bryn Mawr College, Villanova University, and Temple University who helped clean up the parks.

—By Judy Heany, PG project coordinator

IPM LESSONS TAUGHT AT THE AZALEA GARDEN

Attendees of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the Garden, a seminar presented by Philadelphia Green Public Landscapes staff this August, received many helpful tips on how to promote a healthy landscape in the city.

Held at the Azalea Garden along Kelly Drive behind the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the session demonstrated how IPM is used in the garden. This approach puts into use sound horticultural principles, while preventing the indiscriminate use of chemicals. Notes PG's Marilyn Romenesko, "By encouraging healthier plant growth, plants are less vulnerable to insects and disease."

Participants toured various beds in the garden and heard about the benefits of removing dead plant parts, along with other techniques that reduce plant stress. For example, they saw the differences in the growth of hostas located in the shade compared with those grown in the sun. Those in the shade were green and luxuriant, while those in too much sun had brown scorched foliage.

PG's Gretchen Trefny gave the participants a demonstration on how to test garden soil for correct pH. The group also learned that acid-loving plants, such as azaleas, rhododendrons, and pieris, can be under considerable stress when the soil is too alkaline, predisposing them to health problems. Shrubs were then checked for insect activity by shaking their branches so insects fell onto white paper. The insects that landed on the paper were later observed through a magnifying glass to determine whether they were harmful.

Twenty people in all—including several dedicated Azalea Garden volunteers—attended the session. By using the Azalea Garden as a classroom, participants gained a greater appreciation of the beauty of the grounds and saw first hand how IPM works to promote the overall health of landscape plants.

—By Marilyn Romenesko and Gretchen Trefny, PG project managers

Congratulations to Parks Receiving Grants Through Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project*

- Bardascino Park (10th & Carpenter Streets in South Phila.)
- Cliveden Park (Cliveden & Johnson Streets in Mount Airy)
- Louis I. Kahn Park (11th & Pine Streets in Center City)
- Konrad Square (Dauphin & Sepviva Streets in New Kensington)
- Malcolm X Memorial Park (51st & Pine Streets in West Phila.)
- Manayunk 'Pretzel' Park (Silverwood & Rector Streets in Manayunk)
- Mario Lanza Park (near 2nd & Catherine Streets in South Phila.)
- Norris Square (Hancock & Diamond Streets in North Phila.)
- Wissinoming Park (Frankford & Cheltenham Avenues in Northeast Phila.)

*PG's Parks Revitalization Project is supported by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu**, (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org*; or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Philа., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
(215) 988-8800

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN TAKES CENTER STAGE AT THE FLOWER SHOW

Lambsback Floral Decorators' 1999 exhibit, "Estate of Minds."

The 2000 Philadelphia Flower Show will usher in the new century with a celebration of horticultural extravagance, and a vision of a greener and better tomorrow. This year's Central Feature theme, "Gardens for the New Millennium," integrates horticulture into a livable environment.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program is a big part of the Central Feature exhibit, thanks to its 25-year history of greening success in our urban neighborhoods. In the exhibit, the Philadelphia of today will be transformed into a futuristic "green community" with ingenious combinations of gardens, community, science, and culture. "When people enter the Philadelphia Green exhibit," says Show designer and director Ed Lindemann, "they'll actually be transported into a Philadelphia neighborhood 100 years into the future, in the Year 2100. Visitors will walk down a residential street and look at classic urban townhouses each with a unique approach to 22nd-century living. One home may have a garden with organically grown vegetables, while another will have a space-age communications center."

Emphasizing the timeless beauty of horticulture, the Central Feature also looks back through the years. Lambsback Floral Decorators will showcase two New Year's Eve parties from 1922 and 1945, and a New Year's Eve 2000 party in Philadelphia's City Hall. Ed adds, "We chose these years because of their historical significance—in 1922, King Tut's tomb was found; in 1945, there was a great celebration following the end of World War II; and in 2001, Philadelphia's City Hall, which is the largest municipal stone building in the world, will be 100 years old."

But the most outrageous exhibit, to be produced by Renny-The Perennial Farm, will resemble something straight out of a sci-fi movie. It will amaze and thrill Show goers with its light show, New Age sounds, and interestingly shaped plants and striking foliage. "We don't want people to feel as though they're confined within an exhibit," says Ed. "What we want is for them to experience a space where there are no limits to how plants can grow and affect us."

A time capsule of awe-inspiring horticultural creations, this year's Show envisions what *can* happen in the years to come if we make greening and community a priority.

The 2000 Philadelphia Flower Show will take place March 5-12 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (12th & Arch Streets). For more information, call 215-988-8800 or visit us at *www.philaflowershow.com.*

Congratulations to Parks Receiving Second Round of Grants Through Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project*

Barkan Park (50th and Spruce Sts. in West Phila.)
Cedar Park (49th St. and Baltimore Ave. in West Phila.)
Clark Park (43rd St. and Baltimore Ave. in West Phila.)
Disston Park (Keystone and Disston Sts. in Northeast Phila.)
Fairview Park (4418 Manayunk Ave. in Roxborough)
Girard Park (21st and Shunk Sts. in South Phila.)
Howell Park (5215 Greene St. in Germantown)
Jefferson Square (3rd St. and Washington Ave. in South Phila.)
Kelly Park (Pechin & Parker Sts. in Roxborough)
Mifflin Square (5th & Wolf Sts. in South Phila.)
Wharton Square (23rd & Wharton Sts. in South Phila.)
Womrath Park (Kensington and Frankford Aves. in Frankford)

*PG's Parks Revitalization Project is supported by The William Penn Foundation and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.

UPCOMING

Philadelphia Green Brunch
Join us for brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Start your day on Sunday, March 12th with a sumptuous brunch, tour the Flower Show, attend Lectures/Demonstrations, and shop the Marketplace.

Watch for invitations in the mail or call Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897. A limited number of tickets are available. Make your reservations early.

Cost is $25 and includes a ticket for admission to the Flower Show.

Volunteer at the Gardener's Studio or Lectures & Demonstration Area at the 2000 Philadelphia Flower Show
We're looking for volunteers to greet and direct visitors to various presentations, assist exhibitors with transport of plants and supplies, monitor rooms for lectures, and set-up/clean-up for studio demonstrations on the Show floor.

To volunteer for the Gardener's Studio, call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844 or email: *mmaslin@pennhort.org.* For Lectures & Demonstrations, call Eileen Gallagher at 215-988-8880 or email: *egallagh@pennhort.org.*

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series:
The Wired Gardener, Part I: Mining the Web for Gardening Resources
Friday, January 7, Noon - 1:00pm
PHS Auditorium
There's a whole world of gardening information on the World Wide Web. Do you know where to find it? Join PHS librarian and web navigator Janet Evans for an overview of gardening resources on the web. In this lecture/demonstration you will be introduced to web and browser basics, and learn how to quickly find gardening websites.

The Wired Gardener, Part II: Gardening Resources for the Mid-Atlantic Gardener
Thursday, January 13, Noon - 1:00pm
PHS Auditorium
Now that you've mastered the basics, discover the best online resources for Zones 5-7 gardeners. Janet will show you how to research the plants that will grow in your backyard; find out about local gardening happenings; and learn where to shop, where to take gardening classes, and more!

For both sessions, please bring a bag lunch; PHS will supply coffee and tea. Fee: $5 per session. For registration information, please call Sally Kutyla at 215-988-8775 or Kimberly Dmytro at 215-988-8869.

Wagner Free Institute
PHS and the Wagner Free Institute of Science have come together again to co-sponsor two free 6-week courses. Both will be held at the PHS offices, 100 North 20th Street, 5th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. The courses,

Plant Symbioses and **Rare and Endangered Plants of the Philadelphia Region**, are free and open to the public. Owing to space limitations, however, pre-registration is required. To pre-register, please call 215-763-6529, ext. 23. For more information on the courses, contact Susan Glassman at 215-763-6529, ext. 14. When you pre-register, ask for a catalog or a reading list.

Plant Symbioses
Monday, January 24 - Monday, February 28, 2000, 7pm
Plants form an amazing range of associations with other organisms. This mini-course will examine the variety of symbiotic relationships with bacteria, fungi, animals and other plants and will put each in the context of plant adaptation and survival. Instructor will be Karen Snetselaar, professor in the Biology Department of St. Joseph's University.

Rare and Endangered Plants of the Philadelphia Region
Monday, March 27 - Monday, May 1, 2000, 7pm
The course will discuss rare plants that grow in the Delaware Estuary, the New Jersey Pine Barrens, Fairmount Park, and other places near Philadelphia. The class will learn about the characteristics of the plants, their habitats, and factors that have positive and negative affects on their survival. Dr. Schuyler, associate curator, Academy of Natural Sciences and director of research, Henry Foundation for Botanical Research will be the lecturer.

TREE TENDERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tree Tenders Winter Wissahickon Walk
Sunday, January 23, 2000, 2-5pm
Join Tree Tenders for a family-friendly walk through the Wissahickon woods looking at trees in their winter splendor. Activities will include winter tree identification, natural history interpretation, and environmental games, followed by hot cider and storytelling in historic and warm Thomas Mansion. (Please bring stories to share.) Meet at Thomas Mansion, 6245 Wissahickon Avenue (between Walnut Lane and Johnson Street). Please RSVP by Thursday, January 20th to Mindy at 215-988-8844. In case of bad weather, activities will be moved indoors.

Tree Insects and Disease Presentation
Wednesday, February 9, 2000, 6:30-8:30pm
PHS Auditorium
When it comes to tree care, what should you look for? Learn about tree pests, diseases, and environmental problems. Anthracnose, bacterial scorch, and the Asian Longhorn beetle are just a few of the offenders to be discussed. Lisa Blum, Dept. Manager of Landscape Architecture & Horticulture at Temple Ambler, will be the speaker. Refreshments will be served. Free. Please RSVP to Dawn Johns by Monday, February 7th at 215-988-8845.

RESTORING PRIDE TO A CITY BLOCK

When you walk up and down the block of 2100 N. Franklin Street, you'll most likely see trees lined on both sides, wine barrels overflowing with flowers, artwork on display, and newly done facades. Through support from the neighborhood's community development corporation, Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha (APM), the Philadelphia Department of Recreation Mural Arts Program,the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program, and Philadelphia Neighborhood Housing Services, residents have transformed their street into lush greenery in little over a year.

When Philadelphia Green first met with the residents, they saw a block that needed much work, but whose residents didn't know how to go about doing it. Philadelphia Green first helped them with cleaning vacant lots. Eventually, this work led to tree plantings, developing vacant lots into gardens, and building partnerships with other community-based and city organizations.

"Working on these projects has changed the way the residents look at their block," said block captain Lola Stroman. "They're proud of how the block looks and it shows in the way they maintain their trees and plants." In September, residents celebrated their hard work with a block party and mural dedication.

Not only does the block look greener, but the houses look better, too. Thanks to Philadelphia Neighborhood Housing Services, cost-sharing assistance was available to residents who wanted to fix their facades. Fresh paint, window replacement, and roofing help were some of the services provided to residents. Through support from The Pew Charitable Trusts and partnerships with Philadelphia Green and Philadelphia Neighborhood Housing Services, APM made all these projects possible, enabling blocks like this to shine.

—By Carl Haefner, PG project manager, and Keith Green, PG field service rep

"Party for the Parks" Honors Philadelphia Green Volunteers

After a year of hard work and devotion, Philadelphia Green's Parks volunteers had good reason to celebrate. The third annual "Party for the Parks," held in the Mayor's Reception Room in City Hall in December, honored volunteer leaders from nine Philadelphia Parks and celebrated the importance of urban parks as vibrant centers of community activity.

"I'll be telling them about Philadelphia wherever I go," said guest speaker Charles Jordan, director of Parks and Recreation in Portland, Oregon, who praised Philadelphia for integrating the most diverse leadership he had seen in the urban greening movement across the country. He also spoke about the importance of parks in cities, and stressed the connection between community greening efforts and the creation of safe, healthy neighborhoods for our youth.

Sam LePera (center) of the Philadelphia Department of Recreation was awarded the 1999 Parks Steering Committee Award with Sandy Yannatel (Gorgas Park) and Len Pannirello (Elmwood Park) at the third annual Party for the Parks.

"Volunteer of the Year" Award winners were: **Bertha Parker**, Carroll Park (West); **Marge Pannirello**, Elmwood Park (Southwest); **Bev Tuttle** and **Marcelle Martin**, Fairhill Square (North); **Lynne Ameye**, Gorgas Park (Roxborough); **Diane Holman**, Malcolm X Memorial Park (West); **Rafael Feliciano**, Norris Square (North); **Jean Holland** and **Ruth Salters**, Vernon Park (Germantown); **Anthony Blanks**, Wharton Square (South); and **Debbie Darroyo**, Wissinoming Park (Northeast)

Retiring Department of Recreation Commissioner Michael DiBerardinis was honored with a special award for his years and dedicated service to Philadelphia parks. Sam LePera of the Philadelphia Department of Recreation received the 1999 "Steering Committee Award" for his work in the Philadelphia Parks Program.

More than 175 people attended the event, including Mayor Ed Rendell, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Executive Vice President Blaine Bonham, and Councilman Michael Nutter.

Through grants from The William Penn Foundation and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, Philadelphia Green has worked closely with volunteers, community groups, residents, and the Department of Recreation to improve and beautify nine urban parks, provide small grants to volunteer park groups, and involve youth in recreational and environmental programs that encourage park revitalization and preservation.

THINK SPRING!

It's not too early to begin planning for your Arbor Day 2000 Celebration. Come to PHS to learn everything you'll need to know to create a successful event. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 16, 2000, 4-7 pm. For more information, call Joan Blair at 215-988-8843.

"GROWING YOUR FUTURE" HELPS PHILADELPHIA STUDENTS DISCOVER ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS

"Frankenstein's Plants", "Swinging in the Trees", and "Creep with the Crawlers" were just a few of the workshops offered to 8th-grade students who explored environmental careers through "Growing Your Future," an event sponsored in part by Philadelphia Green in October. The program drew more than 200 students from 17 different Philadelphia School District clusters to the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. The students soaked up the sun while planting perennials, creating flower arrangements, analyzing soil samples, and participating in other hands-on activities guided by natural resources professionals.

"Growing Your Future" was designed to encourage middle-school students to learn more about environmental programs, such as the ones developed at Walter B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences and the Horticulture Academy of Abraham Lincoln High School, before they begin their high-school application process. At the end of the day, a majority of the students reported that they would consider a career as an environmental professional. One teen commented that he was torn between becoming a tree-climber and a basketball player!

Through planning support from Elyse Topolsky of the Philadelphia School District's Office of Education for Employment; the School District's Post-Secondary Readiness Coordinators; the PA Urban and Community Forestry Council; Penn State Cooperative Extension; the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania; and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program; "Growing Your Future" linked students to environmental-career options.

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu,** (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org;* or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Phila., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

REVISITING ASPEN FARMS

It started out as a community garden, but turned into something much bigger. Over the past 25 years, Aspen Farms—the emerald of community gardens in our city—has created quite a reputation for itself.

Begun in 1975 with the sponsorship from PHS's community gardening program (the forerunner of Philadelphia Green), Aspen Farms is not just a glorious garden. Under the leadership of Hayward Ford, its dedicated gardeners have contributed mightily to the surrounding community. Four years after its founding, Aspen Farms had increased its size from 3,600 to 28,400 square feet—about half a city block. And two decades later, the garden again transformed itself with the addition of ponds, a mural, and a center walkway. Beyond that, the garden is a consistent winner of top awards at the City Gardens Contest and Harvest Show.

But this is one garden that doesn't rest easily on its laurels. Aspen Farms is all about giving back to the community. No one exemplifies this community spirit better than garden leader Ford, who has championed community involvement from the beginning. In the late 1980s, Ford came to know Anne Spirn, at that time head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. As part of a partnership involving Philadelphia Green (PG) and Penn, students collaborated with garden members and PG staff to design and build a central meeting area with benches, a gazebo, and communal perennial beds. This partnership provided students with real-life lessons, as well as directly benefiting the garden.

Ford was also instrumental in creating an outdoor classroom for Sulzberger Middle School students, which has been in place for the past two summers. But he is quick to credit Esther Williams as the inspiration for Aspen Farms. "Esther made it all possible," says Ford. "She was the one who had the drive and the determination to start the garden in 1975. And you have to know Esther to understand, but once she sets her mind on doing something, there's no stopping her."

PG project manager Eileen Gallager believes the garden has become "a part of the daily routine and a part of their life. On any given day, you'll see gardeners coming and going during the gardening season. They'll stop by and check on their veggies, or just see how well things are growing. Aspen Farms is a living, vibrant part of that community."

Aspen Farm is one of 13 long-established Keystone Gardens that shares an enduring relationship with Philadelphia Green and serves as a model for all community gardens and neighborhoods.

—By Pamela Vu

UPCOMING

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series: Orchids for Your Windowsill
Wednesday, March 22, Noon - 1:00pm
PHS Auditorium

Michael Bowell, owner of Create A Scene in Kimberton, will cover the basic requirements for successfully growing different types of orchids on windowsills and under lights. Michael is an accredited American Orchid Society judge. Currently, he serves as a judge for the orchid and general horticulture classes at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Please bring a lunch; PHS will supply coffee and tea. Fee: $5.

For registration information, please call Sally Kutyla at 215-988-8775 or Kimberly Dmytro at 215-988-8869.

Philadelphia Green Community Gardeners' Plant Sale
Saturday, April 29

Held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. You can take advantage of low prices only if your group pre-orders. Order forms will be mailed the end of March. Deadline for returning forms is *April 12.*

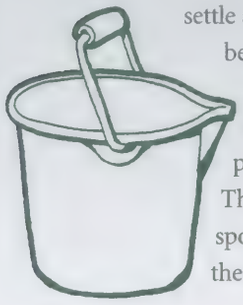
Bus Trip to Temple University's Native Plants Nursery
May 6, 9am-3pm

Tour the nursery and propagation house to learn basic propagation techniques and how to use native plants in the urban landscape. Buses will depart from PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, Phila., PA 19103. Please bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. Fee: $5. Please call Marilyn Reynolds 215-988-8872 to reserve your space.

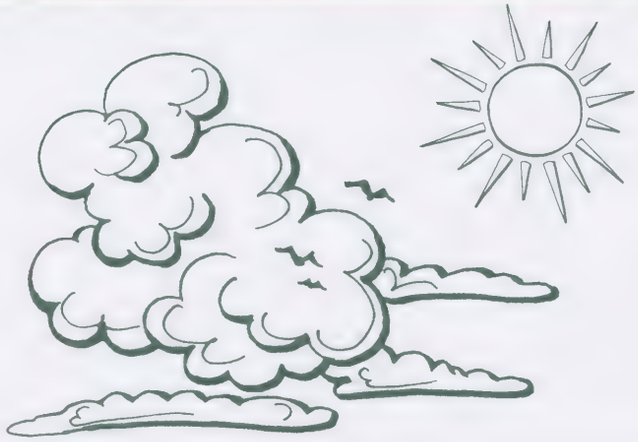
Easy-To-Make Gardening Gadgets

Did you know that you can turn a bucket into a mini-composter? Here's how to do it.

Cut out the bottom of a 5-gallon (or larger) bucket and sink it 12 inches into a hole in one of your garden beds. Add compost, weeds, plant wastes every day (no meat, oils, or processed food, please!) and keep the lid on to avoid attracting flies and other critters. When it's nearly full, pull it up and cover the pile with soil. It will quickly settle as the compost rots and earthworms begin doing their work. Tomatoes and squash family crops, both heavy feeders, will benefit directly when planted close-by your compost hole. Then try moving the bucket to another spot in the garden where it will benefit the soil.



—Sally McCabe



REMEMBERING FLORIE DOTSON

Florie Dotson—Strawberry Mansion leader and member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and the Fairmount Park Advisory Council—died in late December at 81. While Florie had no children of her own, she was mother to many. We will miss her tireless energy and dedication to serving the community of Strawberry Mansion and the city of Philadelphia. Florie worked on many political fronts over the years. She understood the importance of bringing educational and social services to her community as well as enhancing the neighborhood with green spaces. Florie and members of her community collaborated with Philadelphia Green to create the Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne in the 1990s. In the many eulogies given at the memorial service, people praised her many gifts and the amazing impact she had on the lives of her friends, family, and neighbors. Mayor John Street, along with other local politicians, acknowledged that she, Mother Florie, brought them to the positions of power they occupy today. What a tribute to her caring and commitment!

TREE-LINED CHESTNUT STREET OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Providing horicultural expertise to other organizations helps demonstrate what Philadelphia Green is all about—improving the quality of life in our communities. When the city began plans to re-open Chestnut Street to vehicles, Philadelphia Green was there to lend its guidance to the Streets Department, working with them to create a shady, pleasant streetscape.

Newly planted Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) trees on the 700 block of Chestnut Street.

In 1997, Philadelphia Green (PG) staff offered training to 24 Streets Department Bridge and Highway engineers, designers, and construction inspectors. The purpose was to improve their general awareness of trees in the urban environment, educate them about the unique contribution that street trees provide and how they, as streets department workers, could help protect and preserve them. The training was such a success that in 1999, the Streets Department approached PG about doing a second session.

Philadelphia Green's relationship with the Streets Department has flourished and, since last fall, PG's Public Landscapes staff has worked with them to plant trees as part of the Chestnut Street Intermodal Transportation Project. This project is a two-part reconstruction of Chestnut Street from 5th to 22nd Streets. Recently completed, Phase I reopened Chestnut from 6th to Broad Streets to vehicular traffic for the first time in 25 years. Phase II (Broad Street west to 22nd) has begun and should be completed before the Republican National Convention in July. Chestnut Street has also been widened to three lanes: one for parking, one for vehicular travel, and one for buses and bicycles.

Philadelphia Green selected all the trees at local nurseries. Instead of using conventional tree pits, trees were planted in long trenches that allow room for better root growth. "We made sure that the contractor planted the trees according to the specifications, and any trees that arrived at the site that we felt were unsatisfactory, we rejected," says PG project manager Gretchen Trefny. And to make sure the job was done right, PG's Public Landscapes staff was there to supervise the installation of every tree along Chestnut Street.

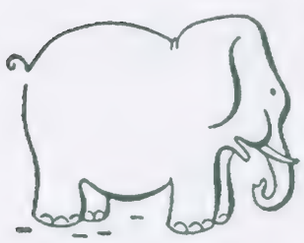
—Gretchen Trefny, PG project manager

Preparing for the 2000 Republican National Convention

This summer, the Republican National Convention will put Philadelphia in the national spotlight. Come late July, the influx of visitors into our city will reach record-breaking numbers and the neighborhoods of Center City will be ready. Philadelphia Green is working with several Center City community groups to raise the level of urban horticulture even higher.

In addition, the City Gardens Contest has added a new category, "Convention Gardens", which aims to encourage container gardening, window boxes, and hanging baskets on street blocks in preparation for the Convention. Look for a Convention Garden popping up near you!

Or better yet, plant one yourself! For more information on the City Gardens Contest, contact Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897.



Tell Us About Your Favorite Neighborhood Spot

What is your favorite neighborhood green space or tree-lined street? Philadelphia Green would like to compile a list of such places in your neighborhood. For example, you might particularly love a certain community garden or have a favorite tree-lined block. Or perhaps you would like to tell us of other horticultural points of interest. If you have a favorite neighborhood spot, tell us about about it. Write to Julie Snell at PHS, 100 N. 20th St., 5th Floor, Phila., PA 19103-1495, and please include your name and contact information.

CREATE A FUN-FILLED ARBOR DAY

With spring around the corner, it's time to think about how to plan a special Arbor Day celebration on **Friday, April 28, 2000**. Here are a few tips to get you started.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?

The first Arbor Day event took place in Nebraska in 1872 and since then has spread to all 50 states. Look at your celebration as an opportunity to expand your vision as well. Invite residents, merchants, and parents to Arbor Day and recruit new volunteers for ongoing tree care projects. Make sure to have a place where visitors can sign up easily.

SHOW OFF WHAT YOU GOT

Think about the activities you've been working on all year and highlight them at the event. For example, if you've completed a tree inventory, plan a "tree tour." If children have created art relating to nature, showcase their work in an outdoor "gallery."

PLAN AHEAD

Invite a storyteller, musician, artist or staff member from a nature center to your event to make it really special. With enough advance notice, people are often happy to donate their time.

GET DIRTY!

No Arbor Day event would be complete without dirty hands. You might want to plant tree seeds in paper cups or, with suitable planning, plant a tree. At a minimum, bring plenty of gloves, rakes, and trash bags to clean up and tend to the existing trees and plantings.

CALL US

Give us a call for more details about activities and games for children, delightful tree stories, local special guests for your event, and tree selection suggestions. Have a wonderful celebration, and don't forget to take pictures! We can be reached at 215-988-8843.

TREE TENDERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a Tree Tenders Teacher: Learn Tree Care and Get Your Students Involved in Community Service
Wednesday, April 12, 4-7pm
Saturday, April 15, 10am-1pm
Tuesday, April 18, 4-7pm

Classes demonstrate how to involve students in tree care and create successful community-based service learning projects related to tree care and the environment. This 9-hour training will be held at PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Phila. *Free.* If interested, please call Joan Blair at 215-988-8843.

5th Annual Bike Ride of Trees in Philadelphia
Sunday, April 30, noon

Join Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders, the Bike Club of Philadelphia, and Bartlett Tree Experts for an easy 8-10 mile ride of the historic and notable trees of West Philadelphia. Highlights include: the Biopond, the Woodlands Historic Cemetery, the Summer/Winter Garden and Tree Farm, and "Baltimore Ave. in Bloom." Meet at Boat House #1, Lloyd Hall (behind the Azalea Garden at Kelly and Aquarium Drives). Helmets are required and bring water bottles. For more information, please call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844.

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu,** (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org;* or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Phila., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
(215) 988-8800
March 2000

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN HONORS ITS OWN AT THE 2000 BRUNCH

Honorees (with bouquets in hand) are recognized for their volunteerism and commitment to greening.

In many ways the Philadelphia Green Brunch felt like a family reunion, with loved ones getting together to catch up on the year's activities. For the over 600 urban gardeners and friends who attended the annual event, it was a time to reflect on the year's accomplishments, and to look ahead to another successful growing season.

PHS executive vice-president Blaine Bonham reflected on William Penn's vision of the city as a "Green Countrie Towne," and the work the Society is doing to make this a reality. He also spoke of the New Kensington Development Corporation's Open Space Management Program, and the many community gardens and parks dotting the city's landscape. All of these success stories represent efforts to transform vacant and blighted land into places of community pride.

A highlight of the day came when Mayor John Street, along with fellow gardeners and friends, took to the stage to pay tribute to the memory of Florie Dotson, the Strawberry Mansion leader and past member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and Fairmount Park Advisory Council. Mayor Street vowed to continue her legacy of community service and efforts to fight urban blight in Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

Also honored were the volunteers who help maintain our public spaces at the Azalea Garden, Eastern State Penitentiary, and the medians of Spring Garden Street. They share a common belief in their communities, helping transform our city's neighborhoods and improve quality of life.

This year's honorees were Karen and Harry Bower, Miriam Galster, Lee Gutman, Nick Johnson, Dorene Martin, Patsy McLaughlin, Ginger Nicholson, Connie Rice, Elizabeth Van Ummersen, Marc Zaharchuk, Melba Axelrod, and Rosina Feldman.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Bouquets to All Exhibitors and Volunteers

By the time you get this edition of the *News*, the last of the Flower Show mulch will have been cleared away, yet the memories will remain. For me and other staff members, these will be memories of all the hours our exhibitors and volunteers spent to make it a splendid Show and one our visitors will remember for many months. As part of this year's Central Feature, the Philadelphia Green exhibit showed how gardening can transform urban neighborhoods into beautiful and livable areas. With Philadelphia Green volunteers on hand, visitors were inspired to start greening in their own communities. Others will take home tips from presentations they heard in the Gardener's Studio, while some will incorporate ideas from the many displays into their gardens this summer. Yet everyone will remember the color, the fragrance, and that feeling of spring.

To you all, exhibitors and volunteers, we say many, many thanks. You make the Show happen and we are most grateful for the revenues you help us raise through the Show to augment the funding we receive from foundations, corporations, and individuals to run our many programs, including Philadelphia Green.

—Jane Pepper, PHS president

UPCOMING

Get Your Garden Off to a Good Start!

Join us for a series of educational programs designed for homeowners and budding gardeners. Whether you have a mature landscape ready for improvement or a bare "canvas" waiting for you to plant your first tree, you'll learn valuable skills and timesaving techniques from these experienced horticulturists.

Container Gardens - Quick and Easy Planters for Busy Gardeners

Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 - 8:00pm

Churchville Nature Center, Bucks County, PA

Container gardens are an easy way to add color and variety to your landscape, while having the advantages of being portable and easy to maintain. **Danielle Odhner** will discuss ornamental, herbal, and vegetable combinations as well as the many types of pots available. Danielle Odhner is head gardener at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, where she is responsible for the designing, planting, and maintaining of the church's grounds.

Healthy Trees

Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 - 8:00pm

Churchville Nature Center, Bucks County, PA

ISA certified arborist **Lou Giroud** will discuss the keys to healthy trees. He'll cover basics such as selecting the right tree for your landscape, detecting signs of tree problems, coping with insects and diseases, and pruning. He'll also discuss how knowledge of tree biology and spray alternatives have changed methods of tree care. Lou Giroud is founder and president of Giroud Tree Service, which is celebrating its 25th year in business.

Fee for each program is $5. For registration information, please call Kimberly Dmytro at 215-988-8869. Travel directions will be mailed. The Churchville Nature Center is a facility of the Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation.

COME TO THE **Kids Grow Expo!**

Where can kids go to showcase their artistic and horticultural talents, and have fun learning about the environment? The **Kids Grow Expo**, featuring the Junior Flower Show, is the perfect place to be. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Expo encourages youngsters from grades 1 to 12 to be active in growing, gardening, and related activities. This year's theme, "Rooted in Community," will highlight the exceptional community service learning projects throughout the Greater Philadelphia Region.

The Show is open: Tuesday, May 16, 3-5pm; Wednesday, May 17, 9:30am-3:00pm; and Thursday, May 18, 9:30am-5:00pm.

For more information, please contact Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897 or email: *fnarducc@pennhort.org*

Philadelphia Green Community Gardeners' Plant Sale

Saturday, April 29

Held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. Watch for order forms in the mail. Deadline for returning forms is *April 12.*

Art in Mario Lanza Park

Saturday, May 6, noon - 4pm

If you are an artist, come to "Art in Mario Lanza Park" and show off your creations. A rental fee of $25 will reserve a spot within the park and will be used in fundraising efforts for beautification of the park. Reserve your spot by calling Gail Chapman at 215-922-1829 by *Friday, April 21st.* (Mario Lanza is between 2nd and 3rd streets, Catharine and Queen, on the North side of Phillip Neri Church.)

Spring Into Your Park

You're invited! Join hundreds of Philadelphians who care about their Parks for the first annual **"Spring Into Your Park"** city-wide cleanup and celebration event on *Saturday, May 13, 2000.*

Community members from Philadelphia's neighborhoods will take to their local Department of Recreation parks in force to clean, play, and celebrate! Our neighborhood parks are community treasures, and Spring Into Your Park is an opportunity to honor their importance and positive impact. Activities will be held from 10am - 1pm at parks throughout the city. Please call Judy Heany at 215-988-8878 for more information.

New Kensington Community Garden Center Gets Set for the Gardening Season

New Kensington Community Garden Center—at the corner of Frankford Ave. and Berks St.—will open for the gardening season on ***Saturday, April 1st.*** Built in 1997, the Community Garden Center is a great place to buy plants locally and has experts who offer gardening workshops to area residents. Thanks to the hard work of the New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC) staff and dedicated volunteers, the Garden Center continues to grow as an asset to the community. If you would like to volunteer or donate plant material, please contact Paul Malvey, NKCDC director of Land Management, at 215-427-0350 (ext. 103). The Garden Center is open Saturdays, 9am-3pm.

A TREE GROWS IN SOUTH PHILLY

What began as an effort to stop a vacant lot from becoming a trash dumping site has lead to a successful crusade to preserve a bit of green in South Philadelphia.

In 1998, the urban gardening group Bel Arbor—aided by Philadelphia Green—decided to create a tree farm as a source of trees for greening projects in their Bella Vista community. After an initial startup on a vacant lot that filled the entire block along Washington Avenue, it was touch and go for Bel Arbor, and the tree farm had to move the rows of trees more than once due to commercial development.

Bel Arbor members, Miriam Indenbaum and Wilfredo Rodriguez tend to one of the many thriving saplings in the tree farm.

Just when the Bel Arbor group thought they had finally found a permanent home along Kimball Street, they learned that Leonard Thylan, a New York developer who owns the site, planned to build houses on this piece of land. Eager to save their trees, the Bel Arbor tree farmers formed a coalition—including Kimball Street and Bella Vista residents, the Christ Presbyterian Church, and City Councilman Frank DiCicco—to urge Thylan to reconsider his plans. Together, their voices made an impact and Thylan provided the gardeners with a five-year agreement that would allow them to use the land for a tree farm.

Last summer, the Bel Arbor tree farm (located on about one third of an acre), resembled a small forest. Surrounding its wildflower and native-grass meadow was a colorful collection of flowering crab apples, golden-rain trees, dogwoods, trident maples, and redbuds. "Bel Arbor has become a focal point in many of our lives," says the group's

—Continued on back page

TREE TENDERS

Tree Tending in Philadelphia: Be a Partner in Keeping our City Green
Wednesdays, June 7, 14, & 21, 6-9pm; Saturday, June 17, 10am-1pm

Join over 1,000 Philadelphians from 85 neighborhoods who have been trained to plant and care for trees. A *free* 4-part 12-hour class covers tree physiology, urban stresses on trees, basic pruning and pit care, and tree identification. The program also conducts "how-to" classes on fundraising and organizational skills. Classes will be held at PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Phila. If interested, please call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8845.

SPRING TREE CARE TIPS

SPRING is a great time to boost your trees with the TLC they will need to survive another hot and dry summer. Here are some pointers:

WATER · Water newly planted trees by hand once a week for the first year, about 10 to 15 gallons each time. (You can't rely on rainfall to do an adequate job until the tree roots are firmly established.) More mature trees should also be watered by hand during hot and dry periods. When watering, trickle water onto the soil using a hose or allow the water to seep from a bucket with small holes on the bottom. These methods allow water to soak deeply into the soil to best benefit the tree.

WEED · Remove competing weeds and grass. This allows the roots to get more oxygen and nutrients, and the tree more water.

CULTIVATE · Loosen the top inch or two of compacted soil around the tree to permit more air and water to filter down to the roots.

MULCH · Add a 2-3 inch layer of wood chips or shredded bark around the base of the tree. Mulch should never be piled against the tree trunk. Mulch allows slow release of nutrients into the soil, regulates soil temperatures, conserves water, prevents soil compaction, and reduces weeds.

PRUNE · Remove dead, diseased, damaged, and crossing branches. If you feel you must prune healthy branches from a deciduous tree for clearance, the best time is before the leaf buds open or after new growth hardens off in midsummer.

CLEAN · Remove trash from the tree pit. Trash can rob the tree roots of needed moisture and some trash can leach poisons into the soil. Heavy bags of trash can also compact the soil.

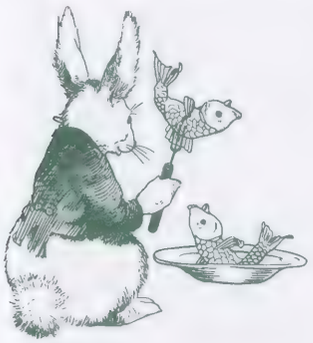
CONSULT A CERTIFIED ISA ARBORIST · A certified International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) arborist is your best choice when dealing with significant tree problems. Signs of tree stress include: stunted growth; browning of leaves or pale leaf color; leaf wilt or early leaf drop; dieback of branches; excessive number of dead branches; and cankers and mushroom growth on the trunk, branches, or roots.

—Mindy Maslin, PG project manager

A Tree Grows, continued from page 3

president, Carla Puppin, "And we are determined to make it a success."

Then came wonderful news last December. Thylan donated the entire parcel to the Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA) for long-term use by Bella Vista residents. NGA is a non-profit organization, partially supported by PHS, committed to preserving community gardens and open space. As the landowner, NGA carries liability insurance and pays for the property tax, while PHS's Philadelphia Green continues to provide technical and horticultural assistance. Today, Bel Arbor's gardeners know they are planting trees for keeps.



URBAN AGRICULTURE: IS IT FOR REAL?

Conference on Urban Agriculture held at the Philadelphia Flower Show

One constant problem faced by rural American farmers across the country is that of rising production costs and sagging profits. So, how would an "urban farm" fare in light of these dreary facts? That was one of many tough questions discussed at the Urban Agriculture Conference held in March. Host and one of the sponsors was Philadelphia Green, who lent their findings from a recent study, *The Feasibility of Urban Agriculture with Recommendations for Philadelphia*, to the forum.

The challenges of operating an agricultural business in the city are great. But what are the benefits of urban agriculture? In addition to the potential business and employment opportunities for city neighborhoods, urban agriculture could serve as one of many reuse options for vacant land. These businesses can also satisfy nearby restaurants and consumers seeking the freshest, highest-quality produce.

The conference also focused on those urban-agriculture businesses that turn at least a minimal profit. Successful urban growers talked about what it took to start their businesses, including issues relating to financing, technology, management, staff, community interaction, and marketing.

The goal of this event was to spark discussion among business leaders, city planners, government agencies, farmers, and foundations, all in the hope that it will lead to a large-scale conference in 2001.

To receive a copy of *The Feasibility of Urban Agriculture with Recommendations for Philadelphia*, please contact John Gannon at 215-988-8809.

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu,** (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org*, or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Phila., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

WHO WANTS TO BE A CITY GARDENS CONTEST WINNER?

First-time winners in the 1999 City Gardens Contest, Gina Caruso and neighbors received first place for their "Community Vegetable and Flower Garden" at 5th and Reed Streets.

"We entered our garden in the City Gardens Contest only after it was up and running for a year," says Gina Caruso, who along with neighbors won 1st place for their community vegetable and flower garden in last year's contest. "It was quite a surprise to us when we won. Just a summer ago, this garden was a vacant lot and now we grow eggplant, broccoli, basil, and collards to share with others. And with families from Cambodia and the Philippines gardening here, we also grow lots of lemongrass, mint, cilantro, and hot peppers. With the cultural mix of East and West and young and old, this is truly a community garden."

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the City Gardens Contest began in 1975 with 50 entries. Twenty-five years later, the number has increased to more than 500 entries. Individual gardeners and community gardening groups compete in categories that include vegetable, flower, container, and block gardens. They do astonishing things, considering the limited space and challenging growing conditions of the city. And with the Republican National Convention right around the corner, Philadelphia gardeners have even more reason to be proud of their horticultural creations.

The City Gardens Contest brings out the cultural richness in Philadelphia's neighborhoods. The gardens are as creative and diverse as the gardeners themselves. You'll find gardens in every nook and cranny of the city—a rooftop garden in West Philadelphia, an aquatic garden in someone's backyard, or a community garden in a formerly vacant lot in South Philadelphia.

Drawing from this rich heritage of local gardeners, Philadelphia's gardening mavericks infuse their gardens with personality and flair, hoping to inspire others to do the same.

If you would like to participate in the City Gardens Contest as a contestant, judge, or both, please fill out and return the form on page 2.

—By Pamela Vu

Robert Beck's beautifully designed aquatic garden took 1st place in the "Individual Flower Garden" category in the 1999 City Gardens Contest.

UPCOMING

BENEFIT CONCERT AT BEL ARBOR TREE FARM

Tuesday, May 16, 7:30pm

A concert of classical music will take place at Christ's Presbyterian Church (10th and Kimball). Tempesta di Mare will be performing the Lost Lute Concerti of Silvius Leopold Weiss. Tickets can be purchased at the door ($15 for adults; $5 for children). For more information, please call 215-339-0248.

CITY HALL IN BLOOM

Tuesday, May 23, 8:30am

City Hall will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. Have fun planting impatiens and flowering vincas, while beautifying this historical landmark. Held at City Hall from 8:30am to noon. The rain date is set for Thursday, May 25. Please call Gretchen Trefny at 215-988-8850, if you would like to volunteer.

NORTHERN LIBERTIES GARDEN TOUR AND BIRDHOUSE AUCTION

Sunday, June 25, noon-4pm

Take a self-guided walking tour of Northern Liberties' secret gardens. Come and see these urban gardeners' creative and beautiful retreats, and stay to bid on handcrafted birdhouses. Northern Liberties is located just north of Spring Garden Street, between Front and 6th streets. Buy your $10 ticket from the neighborhood office (733 N. 2nd Street), or on the day of the tour at Liberty Lands Park, 911 N. 3rd Street. Proceeds benefit Liberty Lands Park and the playground fund. For more information, or to donate a birdhouse, please call 215-627-6562.

CHALLENGE CLASSES FOR THE 2000 HARVEST SHOW

What is a Challenge Class? Challenge Class exhibitors must grow their entries from seeds or plants provided by PHS. All varieties must be grown in a container. Entries will be judged on quality, size, and condition of plants and on the overall appearance of the container. Only one plant per container is permitted. Limited quantities of seeds are available from PHS. Here are the Challenge Class seeds for this year:

220. Dark Opal Basil
221. 'Birdie Mix' miniature tomatoes
222. Nasturtium 'Top Flight Orange'

Registration deadline: July 1. We recommend registering earlier so that your seeds can be planted in time for optimum growth. Send your request for seeds by mail to: Harvest Show Challenge Seeds, c/o Susie Wilmerding, Shows Department, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 N. 20th St., 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495.

ATTENTION CITY GARDENERS! ENTER THE 2000 CITY GARDENS CONTEST

Be a judge:

Spend a day in July among tomatoes, zinnias, petunias, and zucchini. Visit gardens as large as city blocks or as tiny as a backyard corner. We need your help! Call (215) 988-8897 for more information.

Be a contestant:

If you garden in Philadelphia, you qualify to enter the City Gardens Contest. Amateur gardeners compete in a number of different categories from flower to vegetable to container gardens. Fill out the form (below) and mail to: City Gardens Contest, PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 by **June 10**. Good luck!

The deadline to become a judge or contestant in the City Gardens Contest is **June 10**. For more information, please call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897.

TO ENTER THE CITY GARDENS CONTEST

First place winners receive $50, second place $25, and third place $10 gift certificates. All winners receive a one-year membership to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address of garden: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

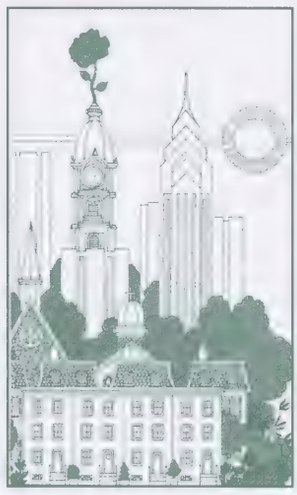
Check appropriate category

Individual Gardens

- ❒ Individual Vegetable Garden
- ❒ Individual Flower Garden
- ❒ Combination Flower/Vegetable Garden
- ❒ Individual Container Garden
- ❒ Child's Garden

Community Gardens

- ❒ Community Vegetable Garden
- ❒ Community Flower/Sitting Garden
- ❒ Combination Vegetable/Flower Garden
- ❒ Children's Garden
- ❒ Garden Block with Window Boxes and Sidewalk Planters
- ❒ "The Greenest Block in Town" Street Trees/Front Yards



MARIO LANZA PARK HAS A NEW LAWN!

Volunteers begin the work of sodding the grounds of Mario Lanza.

It's amazing what community spirit and hard work can do for a neighborhood. For volunteers at Mario Lanza Park, it meant seeing the "before" and "after" as a result of their collective work.

In just three days, volunteers at Mario Lanza Park (2nd and Catherine Streets) transformed two barren, compacted dirt patches into lush, green lawns. The enriching, tilling, and raking of the hard-scrabbled soils began on Thursday, March 30th, and by nightfall on Saturday, the newly sodded areas were ready for watering. In addition, two new planting areas were created, compost was spread onto other planting beds, and improvements were made to the dog-run (the Friends of Mario Lanza Park are working to create a new wood-chipped surface in the dog-run as requested by dog owners).

The Friends of Mario Lanza Park completed the project as part of Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization effort funded by The William Penn Foundation. Rather than pay a contractor to do the job, they decided to organize a series of work days so volunteers could do the job together. This not only saved thousands of dollars, but it encouraged local residents and other Philadelphians to participate in a fulfilling and successful project.

This feat would not have been possible without volunteers from City Year and their Young Heroes Program. (City Year is a non-profit organization that involves youth in service learning projects.) They were there for the very laborious soil preparation and then came back to spend a day in the warm sun, laying nearly 6,000 square feet of sod! Way to go City Year!

Special thanks also to the Philadelphia Department of Recreation who provided load after load of compost necessary to enrich the depleted soils.

—Jeff Tober, PG project coordinator

Here's to You, Mike

After more than 12 years of extraordinary dedication and profound commitment to improving Philadelphia's neighborhoods, Philadelphia Green manager ***Mike Groman*** *bids farewell to PHS. Mike has been an integral part of the development and management of the Philadelphia Green program since he came to PHS in 1987. He has developed a dynamic department full of capable people who have helped to bring national acclaim to PHS. His planning abilities, programmatic perspective, management judgment, compassion, collaborative spirit, and dedication to Philadelphia Green and his staff have made him loved by all of us. Mike will assume the role of Executive Director of Green Valleys Association in his new position.* ***We wish him the greatest success in his future.***

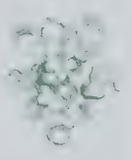
Philadelphia Green and the Dept. of Recreation Team Up for Training

Continuing to forge a strong relationship with the City's Department of Recreation, Philadelphia Green's Parks team has become the guiding force behind a series of training sessions offered by the Department for its staff. Training includes tree care, grounds maintenance, playground management, developing communication skills, and basic horticulture.

"This training helps workers better understand their environment and learn proper techniques, as well as develop other on-the-job skills," says Philadelphia Green project manager Marcy BonDurant. "It also helps the Department of Recreation recruit more skilled workers."

Three sessions will be offered in the spring and fall, for a total of six workshops. In the end, the Department of Recreation hopes to make this a prerequisite for promotions and permanent hiring.

THE KEYSTONES TO THE CITY



The **Keystone Gardens** are a special group of a dozen or more gardens that beautify Philadelphia's city blocks. Moreover, these Keystone Gardens serve as a bridge between the community and its residents. Because the gardens are longstanding, large-scale community gardens, they require additional support and resources that are beyond what their volunteer gardeners are able to provide. In partnership with the Keystone Gardens and funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia Green seeks to ensure these gardens' long-term sustainability.

Philadelphia Green is happy to announce the gardens selected to receive grants for 2000 through 2002.

In the development category: Aspen Farms, 18th & Glenwood, Liberty Lands, 18th & Wallace, Norris Square, and Warrington Community Garden.

In the maintenance category: Bel Arbor, Sun Circle, The Village of Arts and Humanities, and the 25th St. Gardens at Reed, Dickinson and Tasker.

Congratulations and long life to these thriving Keystone Gardens!

A Show of Daffodils Along JFK Boulevard Welcomes Spring

What a cheery sight: 2,000 daffodils painting bold strokes of yellow and gold along the sloped landscape at 20th Street and John F. Kennedy Boulevard. Last October, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and volunteers from The Pew Charitable Trusts planted four different *Narcissus* varieties: 'Las Vegas', 'Arctic Gold', 'Serola', and 'Camelot'.

As their names imply, we chose the bulbs for their vivid colors and strong constitution. Indeed, this is not an up-close-and-personal planting. These daffodils' yellow hues can be seen by workers and residents of nearby buildings, as well as by commuters passing by on SEPTA trains and those whizzing down JFK Boulevard in their cars. The cool north-facing slope also lets the flowers last and last.

This spring, with its wild weather swings, we all deserve such a beautiful view. Won't you come and take a look?

—Nancy O'Donnell, PG project manager

WEST NILE VIRUS ADVISORY

As you may remember, there was an outbreak of West Nile virus last year in New York City and New Jersey. Spread by mosquitoes, this virus can cause fever, brain inflammation, and in seven out of 60 cases last summer, even death. Although numerous government agencies will be monitoring virus activity this coming summer, gardeners and homeowners along the East Coast are advised not to store rainwater in containers or allow standing water to collect anywhere on their property, including clogged gutters. The mosquitoes that carry the virus are "container-breeders" and need only a small amount of water to lay their eggs. (Ornamental pools are not a problem if the water is moving or aerated, or if there are fish in the pool, which will eat any larvae.)

Another way to reduce risk is to stay indoors at dawn and dusk and wear protective clothing if you must be outdoors at these times. If you decide to use an insect repellent, it should be a DEET-containing product, with no more than 30% DEET. Read the instructions for use carefully and do not use on infants or small children. If, despite your precautions, you are bitten and become ill a few days later, please consult your healthcare provider.

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu** (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org*; or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Phila., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
(215) 988-8800

May 2000

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FRANKFORD GARDENER

Community members take part in a perennials workshop.

A garden shines brightly at Penn and Oxford.

It's April 18, 2000. On this day in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, residents can be found gearing up for the gardening season. Mr. Jenkins and his friends are starting to turn the soil for vegetables at their garden on Foulkrod Street. Mrs. Flowers is telling her neighbors to save their plastic milk containers for water in case we have another dry summer. Meanwhile, Tom Hummel and Roy Koelher up the street are spreading out the last of the huge pile of woodchips and examining the flower beds in hopes that the orange cosmos will return this summer at the corner of Penn and Oxford.

Oh, and let's not forget Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Thompson, who have been gardening on the corner of Hedge and Meadow for the past 15 years. These are just a few of the folks in the Frankford community of Northeast Philadelphia, whose love for their community, combined with their interest in gardening, is making a difference.

For the past three years, Philadelphia Green has worked in partnership with the Frankford Group Ministries (FGM), a community-based organization, to effectively address greening and vacant land issues within the Frankford community. Through funding from The William Penn Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia Green together with FGM and area residents aims to revitalize open space and care for gardens and other greening projects in the community. Moreover, Philadelphia Green is looking to bring residents together through horticultural workshops, group building opportunities, and fun greening activities. So far, with the help of neighborhood residents and support from FGM, 10 sustainable community gardens have been planted and numerous streets greened with sidewalk planters and street trees.

With funding renewed for another three years, Philadelphia Green and Frankford are looking to do larger open-space projects that would create green areas along Frankford Avenue and a greenway through the Frankford Creek.

This is just the beginning of the many greening possibilities in store for the Frankford community.

—Shannon Nec, PG project manager

McLean Library Surfs Into the Future

The staff of the McLean Library at PHS has launched The WiredGardener, a FREE monthly email newsletter, in which subscribers receive capsule reviews of gardening and greening websites; announcements of gardening events at PHS and in the Philadelphia area; notices of new library books; as well as other sources for finding more horticultural information on the web.

How to Get The Wired Gardener

• Address an email message to *listserv@hslc.org*
•Leave the "subject" line blank.
•In the body of the message, type: SUBSCRIBE WIREDGARDENER your first name (space) your last name. [Example: SUBSCRIBE WIREDGARDENER Sue Smith.]
•Press the "Send" button.

You will be automatically added to the newsletter list and will receive your next issue of The WiredGardener soon! Please contact Janet Evans, Library manager at *jevans@pennhort.org* or call 215-988-8779 if you have any questions.

Participate in Philabundance's "Share the Harvest" Program

Hundreds of gardeners in the Delaware Valley will "sow an extra row" in their home garden this summer to help fight hunger in our region. They are part of Philabundance's Share the Harvest program—a homegrown effort to provide nutritious food to local homeless shelters and emergency kitchens.

Drop-off sites include: Laurel Hill Gardens (Chestnut Hill); Smith & Hawken (Rosemont); Frank's Nursery & Crafts (Springfield & Fairless Hills); Waterloo Gardens (Exton); Main Line Gardens (Malvern); and Holy Redeemer Provincialate (Huntingdon Valley).

If you would like to participate in Philabundance's Share the Harvest program, please call (215) 339-0900 or email: *ccarponter@pphilabundance.org* to receive an information packet. Also, visit *www.philabundance.org*

Tune in to Garden Tips on Channel 6 Action News

Patricia Schrieber of Philadelphia Green joins Dave Roberts of Action News every week with tips for gardeners. Tune in and learn everything from selecting annuals and deadheading daffodils, to preparing your soil and container planting.

"The show covers topics that every gardener should know," says Patricia. "Regardless of whether you are an experienced or beginner gardener, you'll find our quick tips helpful." The segment airs Fridays sometime after 5:45 and before 6:00pm and again, Sunday during the 9:00-9:30am News show. The series will run through the fall.

Go online to *www.wpvi.com* and under "Features" click on Action News Garden Tips for a transcript of each show.

If you or a friend has questions on gardening, call PHS's Horticultural Hotline (open Monday - Friday, 9:30am to noon) at 215-988-8777; or email: *askagardener@pennhort.org.*

Full Moon Hike in the Wissahickon

Join Philadelphia Green Tree Tenders and other tree enthusiasts for an easy full moon stroll in the Wissahickon Park.

- Tuesday, August 15th, 7 - 8pm.
- Meeting at 6049 Daniel Street, Philadelphia. RSVP for directions.
- Bring a snack to share, a reusable plate and cup, and a blanket.
- Invite friends and family. Children are welcome! RSVP to Mindy at 215-988-8844.

"TAINO GARDENS" GOES GREEN

After seeing the positive impact greening had on the housing community of Jardines, the Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha (APM) together with Philadelphia Green has begun to do similar work in the newly constructed rental community of Taino Gardens in North Philadelphia.

Composed of 42 townhouses spread over three city blocks, Taino (pronounced *Tie-EE-no*, after a native Puerto Rican tribe) is another milestone in APM's effort to rebuild community by placing value on green space. Here, residents can enjoy the outdoors on newly established lawns, as well as take in the glorious vista of trees that frame the streets and yards of their new community.

"Traditionally, when it came to housing developments, landscaping was always thought of as secondary," says APM project developer Francis Vargas. "But once residents got involved in planting trees and creating backyards, we noticed the impact it had on the community. People interacted more with one another and took greater ownership of their neighborhood. Thanks to greening, even the kids seem more respectful of their surroundings. And with Philadelphia Green on board, there's an extra level of horticultural expertise that will help us maintain the work that's been done. Before, landscaping was an afterthought; now, it's something we consider from the outset."

In developing landscape plans for Taino, Philadelphia Green and APM staff worked with landscape architect Susan Mattison to develop a low-maintenance, survivable, and aesthetically pleasing landscape. Through funding from the National Equity Fund, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Redevelopment Authority, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the Reinvestment Fund, Office of Housing and Community Development, and Target Neighborhood Initiative, APM gained the resources necessary for installing a quality landscape. Trees such as yellowwood, green ash, and redbud were planted in private yards along with shrubs such as spirea, inkberry, and rugosa roses. This past April, Philadelphia Green planted 59 additional street trees.

Working along with APM's property management and community organizers, Philadelphia Green also initiated a resident-greening project this May, showing residents how to plant flowers along shrub borders in front of the homes. Over the next several years, Philadelphia Green will offer guidance and training to the landscape maintenance staff, and will continue work with the residents to grow gardens in their yards. First it was Jardines, then it was Taino—soon, greening may be a part of your community development, too.

—Carl Haefner, PG project manager

IN MEMORY OF HELEN FEGGANS

Helen Feggans, a lifelong resident of the West Shore neighborhood and past Philadelphia Green Advisory Board member, passed away this May at 73. Born and raised in southwest Philadelphia, Helen grew up deeply aware of her community and civic needs. "Helen's biggest dream was to see Philadelphia's communities become a cleaner, greener, and better place for visitors and residents," says longtime friend Bettie McGill.

Helen was instrumental in revitalizing the homes in her area through greening. In 1975, she started working on her block, planting windowboxes and barrels. Three years later, residents and Philadelphia Green staff got involved in planting 30 street trees. Demonstrating that gardening is an effective tool in rebuilding communities, Helen organized group block leaders to take action, and as a result, West Shore became the third "Greene Countrie Towne." (Philadelphia Green initiated the Greene Countrie Towne program in 1980; each "Towne" represented a concentrated neighborhood-based greening program reflecting the collaborative efforts of residents, community-based improvement organizations, and technical assistance agencies.)

At the same time Helen was making a difference in her neighborhood, she was becoming a role model for others in her community. Through her work, she has inspired all of us to carry on her dream.

Powelton-Drexel Community Greening

For the shared community of Powelton Village and Drexel University, the relandscaping of the playground at 35th and Powelton Avenue is the first step in reclaiming open space. With growing demands for residential housing and an increasing college population, there are fewer greening opportunities in the Powelton-Drexel neighborhood. The Community Greening Project hopes to reverse this trend and preserve a bit of green for community residents, students, and others.

When visitors come to the entrance of the newly landscaped playground, better known as the "Tot Lot," a new trellis of wood and steel (with yellow-flowering trumpet vines and purple-flowering Clematis vines) invites them to the green space beyond. The many improvements include the regrading and reseeding of the grassy area; newly installed game tables and benches; plantings of flowering trees and fragrant shrubs; and the renewal of a wood chip play surface. Along the 3200 and 3500 blocks of Powelton Avenue, street trees create a tree-lined corridor at the center of the community.

All this was made possible through a grant from The William Penn Foundation to Drexel University, who sought Philadelphia Green's assistance to manage the Project. Lager- Raabe Landscape were hired as consultants to draw up plans for the playground's improvements. Adding to the team effort was the Project's Steering Committee and the Greening Committee. They have focused efforts on the larger community and how it can play a greater role in initiating and maintaining greening projects.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place June 6 to celebrate the completion of the playground's new look—a result of the university-community collaboration that will continue to green well into the future.

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu**, (215) 988-8768; email: pamvu@pennhort.org or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Phila., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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Belgrade Garden in the Limelight

Lights…camera…action! As the camera pans to the corner of Frankford Avenue and Crease Street in northeast Philadelphia, our eyes become fixed on the flourishing community garden and park. Picture red roses climbing all along a split-rail fence surrounding a park, while delicate pink flowers bloom on redbud trees. Inside the garden, raised beds are filled with lush vegetables. For community members who enjoy Belgrade Garden, these are not merely visions of beauty, but a reality of everyday life.

Serving as a gateway into the neighborhood, Belgrade Garden is a result of community action. Residents of Belgrade and Crease streets, along with those of Frankford Avenue, met with a landscape architect to set their plans down on paper. Soon after, community members worked tirelessly to transform the once vacant lot into the Belgrade Garden it is today. And on this day, their hard work is being captured on video for a documentary focusing on vacant land revitalization efforts in Fishtown/Kensington.

"It is amazing how different the space looks today!" is a phrase echoed by everyone on this sunny day. Thanks to dedicated neighbors like Ed Elliss and support from the New Kensington Community Development Corporation and Friends of Fishtown, Belgrade Garden welcomes visitors into the neighborhood of Fishtown/Kensington with a feeling of warmth and a little bit of green. Now, that's a wrap!

By Shannon Nec, PG project coordinator

Harvest 2000...and Beyond

As autumn paints the landscape with its deep rich colors, Philadelphia gardeners glean produce from their harvest just in time for the annual Philadelphia Harvest Show. This year's Harvest Show theme—"Harvest 2000…and Beyond"—looks to the future of gardening.

At the Show, gardeners celebrate their bountiful homegrown harvest and compete for ribbons in horticulture, design, preserved products, and baked-goods categories. Others come to marvel at stunning floral and harvest displays; learn how to make festive floral arrangements; or shop in the newly expanded Harvest Market. For the kids, there is pumpkin painting, scarecrow making, and a miniature flower-arranging activity. Other special events include the third annual Great Pumpkin Pie Contest, culinary demonstrations, and the first annual veggie races. This old-time country fair is truly a fun-filled outing for the whole family.

The 2000 Philadelphia Harvest Show will be held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park on Saturday and Sunday, September 16-17. If you would like to display the best of your seasonal bounty, or to receive a Harvest Show booklet, please call Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897.

SAVE THIS DATE!

Harvest Party, Saturday, September 16, 6-8pm

Come celebrate the harvest at the Harvest Party. Join us for an evening of square dancing, music, and down-home fun. Refreshments will be served. Look for invitations in your mailboxes this August.

UPCOMING

RECLAIMING YOUR PARK WORKSHOPS: SUMMER SERIES 2000

Removing Blight from Your Park

Monday, July 10, 6-8:30pm

Scanlon Recreation Center and Harrowgate Park, "I" and Tioga Streets

This hands-on workshop will focus on specific cleanup techniques and demonstrate how you can channel your group's energies into removing broken glass, litter, graffiti, illegally dumped construction debris, and weeds from your park. Please dress appropriately; demonstrations will be performed. Fee: $5.

Creating Awareness: Public Relations and Special Events

Tuesday, July 18, 6-8:30pm

Disston Recreation Center, Disston and Glenlock Streets

Learn proven tips for successfully promoting your group, from getting media coverage to creating effective flyers to soliciting support from the surrounding community. Fee: $5.

For registration information on these "Reclaiming Your Park" Workshops, please contact 215-685-0045.

Philadelphia Harvest Show Workshop

Monday, September 11, 5:30-7pm

Awbury Arboretum

Get you entries ready for this year's Philadelphia Harvest Show. Join Delmer and Beverly Gill, Community Gardens Chairs of the Harvest Show, and Linda Brown, Education manager of Awbury Arboretum, for tips on how to prepare flowers, vegetables, herbs, and preserved products. While you're there, enjoy a walk through the newly renovated Awbury Arboretum community garden and explore the woodland trail planted with native trees, shrubs, and perennials.

The workshop is free of charge, but pre-registration is required. Awbury Arboretum is located in the Germantown section of the city. Friends and interested gardeners are welcome. Travel directions will be mailed upon confirmation of event. Please call Sally Kutyla at 215-988-8775 or Kimberly Dmytro at 215-988-8869.

Tree Tenders Training

Wednesdays, September 13, 20 & 27, 6-9pm

Held at PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Phila. Free. If interested, please call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844.

Be a Tree Tenders Teacher: Learn Tree Care and Get Your Students Involved in Community Service

Wednesdays, October 11 & 18; Saturday, October 14, 10am-1pm

This 9-hour training will be held at PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Phila. Free. If interested, please call Joan Blair at 215-988-8843.

The City Gardens Contest Goes Suburban

Since 1975, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's City Gardens Contest has been recognizing Philadelphia's greening champions. Now the City Gardens Contest is expanding to include public space plantings in suburban Philadelphia, New Jersey, and Delaware. You can nominate train stations, traffic islands, Main Street planters or any other public space worthy of recognition by calling Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897.

YOUTH GARDENING GRANTS

The National Gardening Association, along with leading companies from the lawn and garden industry, awards 400 Youth Gardening Grants to schools, neighborhood groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups thoughout the United States.

Each grant is more than $750 and consists of quality tools, seeds, and garden products. Application forms are available by mail by calling 1-800-538-7476, extension 603, or visit their web site for information on the grant *www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp*

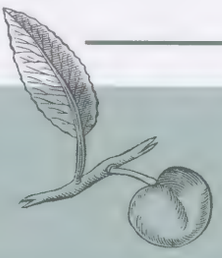
GREENING THE COURTYARD APARTMENTS AT RIVERVIEW

Private gardens and shared open space will be seen weaving through the grounds at the Courtyard Apartments at Riverview, connected by a "stream" of plantings. The trees along its main street and perimeter streets carry the green theme even further. Together these landscaping components create a new model of how housing developments can look—one which the Courtyard Apartments at Riverview is making into a reality.

In an effort to rebuild parts of the Southwark neighborhood of Philadelphia (between 3rd and 5th and Christian and Washington streets), the Southwark Plaza Limited Partnership (SPLP) imploded two of the three high-rise towers and gave the existing low-rise units a new look. These improvements make up the complex known as the Courtyard Apartments. SPLP, the financial arm of the National Equity Fund, consulted Philadelphia Green on landscaping and horticulture issues. Philadelphia Green staff was also on-site to provide technical assistance, including recommendations for plants.

The new landscape will be done in two phases: the first phase to be completed by the end of July; the second in the fall. Initially, Philadelphia Green will be working closely with AIMCO, a property management company, to help manage the maintenance of the site.

In all, the Courtyard Apartments is challenging the way we think about housing. These developments are no longer monolithic buildings set on neutral, park-like grounds, but rather they are vibrant centers of community life. According to Philadelphia Green project coordinator Julie Snell, "Margie Ruddick Landscape, who came up with the design of the landscape, is rejecting the housing model of years past, where little attention was paid to the landscape. Here, the idea is to create a variety of open spaces and a continuous ribbon of greenery as you move through the many different spaces, linking the Courtyard Apartments to the larger neighborhood."



Volunteer at the PHILADELPHIA HARVEST SHOW!

Harvest 2000...and Beyond
Saturday & Sunday,
September 16-17
Horticulture Center, Fairmont Park

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

For information on preserving a Philadelphia community garden:
Neighborhood Gardens Association
Terry Mushovic, Executive Director
Greg Gregson, Preservation Specialist
215-988-8797

For information on how to start a community garden:
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program
215-988-8826 (request line)
215-988-8777 (PHS hotline for gardening questions)

For information on food gardening:
Penn State Urban Gardening Program
215-471-2224

Sign me up to help at the Harvest Show!

Setup		
Wednesday, 9/13	(9am-4pm)	❒
Thursday, 9/14	(9am-4pm)	❒
Horticulture Information Booth		
Friday, 9/15	(4-7pm)	❒
Saturday, 9/16	(10am-5pm)	❒
Sunday, 9/17	(10am-5pm)	❒
Entry Aides		
Thursday, 9/14	(3:15-7pm)	❒
Friday, 9/15	(7:15-10am)	❒
Information Aides		
Welcome and direct visitors		
Friday, 9/15	(3:30-5pm)	❒
	(5:15-7:15pm)	❒
Saturday, 9/16	(9:30-noon)	❒
	(noon-2:30pm)	❒
	(2:30-5pm)	❒
Sunday, 9/17	(9:30-noon)	❒
	(noon-2:30pm)	❒
	(2:30-5pm)	❒
Youth Section Aides		
Thursday, 9/14	(2-4:30pm)	❒
	(4:30-7pm)	❒
Friday, 9/15	(7:30-10:30am)	❒
	(4-7pm)	❒
Saturday, 9/16	(11am-3pm)	❒
Sunday, 9/17	(11am-3pm)	❒
Children's Activities		
Saturday, 9/16	(11am-4pm)	❒
Sunday, 9/17	(11am-4pm)	❒

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

TELEPHONE _____ (day)

_____ (evening)

Help make the 2000 Philadelphia Harvest Show another bountiful Show. If you'd like to work behind the scenes this year and will be available Wednesday through Sunday, September 13-17, please use this form or email *bgreene@pennhort.org* to tell us where and when you would like to help. Send to PHS, 100 N. 20th St.-5th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19130-1495, Attn: Betty Greene.

2000 Kids Grow Expo "Rooted in Community"

Philadelphia Green staffer Joan Blair shares "Stories for Little Sprouts" with youngsters.

Formerly known as the Junior Flower Show, the 2000 Kids Grow Expo came alive with creative showcases of art and horticulture. Held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park, this year's Kids Grow Expo "*Rooted in Community*" featured exceptional community service learning projects throughout Philadelphia.

Hundreds of artistic and horticultural displays were decked with prize-winning ribbons. Outside, the grounds were abuzz with horticulturally related games and activities. To promote awareness of horticulture and encourage youth participation, stations were set up for the more than 2,000 visitors who came—everything from games such as "Who Wants To Be an Environmentalist?" to demonstrations led by volunteers from the Morris Arboretum, the Philadelphia Water Department, and Children Seashore House. Students from the Horticulture Academy of Lincoln High School, University City High School, and Saul Agricultural High School were also on hand to lead tours and environmentally related activities.

For information on next year's Kids Grow Expo, please call Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897.

Do you have a story about your fellow community gardener or want to share a gardening experience? Call or write **Pamela Vu**, (215) 988-8768; email: *pamvu@pennhort.org* or mail to: PHS, 100 N. 20th Street-5th Floor, Phila., PA 19103. Your story may be published!

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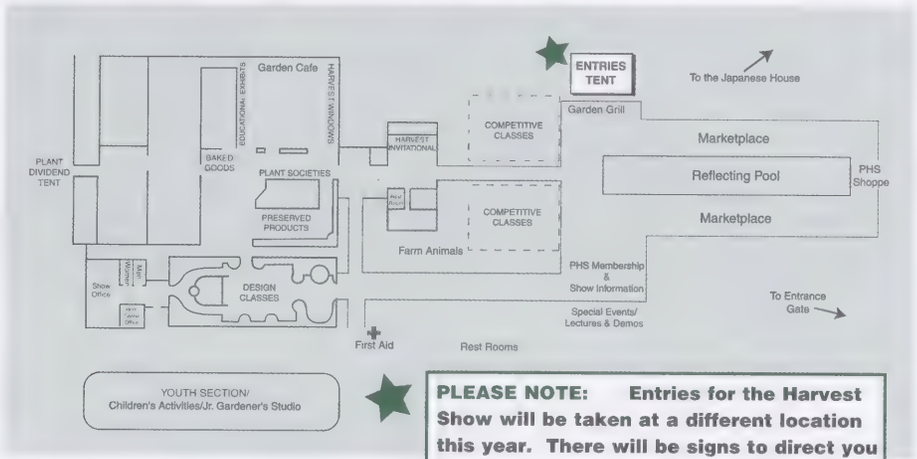
WELCOME TO THE 2000 PHILADELPHIA HARVEST SHOW



PLEASE NOTE: Entries for the Harvest Show will be taken at a different location this year. There will be signs to direct you around the Horticulture Center to the "Entries Tent", located near the reflecting pool.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is proud to present the 2000 Philadelphia Harvest Show. *Harvest 2000...and Beyond* is being held at Fairmount Park's beautiful Horticulture Center during the weekend of September 16th and 17th. The show captures the essence of the harvest in a festive autumn atmosphere, featuring horticultural and artistic competitions, gardening "how-to" and craft demonstrations, the second annual Great Pumpkin Pie Contest, and an expanded open-air marketplace with 40 vendors. This old-time country fair is truly a fun-filled outing for the entire family.

This year, there are some significant changes to the layout of the Harvest Show, with new locations for the competitive classes, youth section, and the registration station for artistic and horticultural entries *(see map)*.

You can see over 2,500 stunning floral and harvest displays including grand flower arrangements, gigantic vegetables, delicate pressed plants, tasty baked goods, and container-grown annuals - all competing for blue ribbons (see back page on how to enter your own!). See you on the weekend of September 16th and 17th!

Steve Maurer and John Gannon

INFORMATION

What: The 2000 Philadelphia Harvest Show
Where: Fairmount Park's Horticulture Center, Horticultural Drive, Philadelphia, PA
When: September 16 & 17, 2000, 10 am - 5 pm
Admission: Adults $6; Children under 12 $2
More info: (215) 988-8800 or *www.libertynet.org/phs*
Group Sales: Call 215-988-8800 and request a Philadelphia Harvest Show Order Form
Entering the Competitions: To receive an exhibitor's guide, call 215-988-8897 or e-mail *fnarducc@pennhort.org*
The registration station for entries is located near the reflecting pool (see "ENTRIES TENT" on map).

DIRECTIONS

Public Transportation: Take SEPTA Route #38 bus to Belmont and Montgomery. Walk from Montgomery to North Horticulture Drive and go through the gates to the Horticulture Center.

By car from the East: Take the Schuykill Expressway (I- 76) West and exit at Montgomery Drive; turn left onto Montgomery Drive; take first left onto Horticultural Drive and follow the signs.

By car from the West: Take the Schuykill Expressway (I- 76) east and exit at Montgomery Drive; turn right on Montgomery Drive; take first left on Horticultural Drive and follow the signs.

Via Belmont Avenue from western suburbs: Take Belmont Avenue to Montgomery Drive; take a left onto Montgomery Drive; take first right onto Horticultural Drive and follow the signs.

HARVEST PARTY

Saturday, September 16, 6 - 8 pm

The Harvest Party will be held at the Horticulture Center. Come join us for an evening of music, down-home fun, and refreshments. If you did not receive an invitation for the Party in the mail, please call Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897.

UPCOMING

Philadelphia Harvest Show Workshop

Monday, September 11, 5:30-7pm
Awbury Arboretum

Get your entries ready for this year's Philadelphia Harvest Show. Join **Delmer and Beverly Gill**, community gardens chairs of the Harvest Show, and **Linda Brown**, education manager of Awbury Arboretum, for tips on how to prepare flowers, vegetables, herbs, and preserved products.

The workshop is free of charge, but pre-registration is required. Awbury Arboretum is located in the Germantown section of the city. Friends and interested gardeners are welcome. Travel directions will be mailed upon confirmation of event. Please call Sally Kutyla at 215-988-8775 or Kimberly Dmytro at 215-988-8869.

Tree Tenders Training

Wednesdays, September 13, 20 & 27, 6-9pm

Held at PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Phila.
Free. If interested, please call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844.

Twilight on the Canal

Thursday, September 21, 6 - 8pm
Smith & Hawken, Manayunk

Join friends from the Manayunk Development Corporation and Friends of the Canal for a tour of the canal area and learn about plans for the canal's continuing revitalization. Following our tour, we'll return to Smith & Hawken for a culinary demonstration presented by Guru, the award-winning Pan Asian restaurant on South Street. Fee: $15. All are welcome, but pre-registration is required as registration is limited. Please call Sally Kutyla at 215-988-8775 or Kimberly Dmytro at 215-988-8869.

Be a Tree Tenders Teacher: Learn Tree Care and Get Your Students Involved in Community Service

Wednesdays, October 11 & 18, 4-7pm; Saturday, October 14, 10am-1pm

This 9-hour training will be held at *PHS*, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Phila. Free. If interested, please call Joan Blair at 215-988-8843.
Note: Teachers will receive Act 48 Continuing Professional Education Credit.

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Fall Tree Care

Wednesday, October 18, noon - 1:00pm
PHS Auditorium

Lou Giroud, ISA certified arborist, will discuss important steps you can take in the fall to care for your trees, help them survive the winter, and get a healthy start next spring. Bring a lunch; PHS will supply tea and coffee. Fee: $5. For registration information, please call Sally Kutyla at 215-988-8775 or Kimberly Dmytro at 215-988-8869.

GARDEN TENDERS: SEEDS OF CHANGE

With the help of Philadelphia Green's Garden Tenders training, gardens are sprouting up throughout the city on what were once trash-filled vacant lots. Garden Tenders is an eight-session course offered free of charge to prospective community gardeners. It provides basic training on how to create and sustain gardens. Groups who fulfill the graduation requirements receive support from Philadelphia Green staff to start their projects and can attend our on-going workshops.

Here's a look at three recent graduate groups:

- The **Round Tree** group converted a four-house vacant lot at 2236-42 North Camac Street into a combination vegetable and recreation garden. The garden is full of tomatoes, corn, eggplant, and other tasty veggies. It's large size offers plenty of room for children to play and is an ideal spot for community social gatherings. With another large vacant lot and several abandoned homes on this block, the garden has been a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

The **House of Ali** took the opportunity to use the vacant lot at 2513 W. Lehigh as a starting point to improve their neighborhood. This project was the result of the community working with The School of Hard Knocks, a program that helps former prisoners return to society. The lot is filled with perennial and annual beds, and the back of the garden provides sitting and picnic space. This new green space is located in a community with 50 vacant lots in just a five-block radius; and it has already inspired others in the neighborhood to start another gardening project.

Goldis Millenium (1863 Nedro Street) is also using gardening to help initiate change in the neighborhood. On a vacant lot that has traditionally been used as a drop-off for trash on garbage night, these gardeners are working to break that habit and convert the space into a garden. Some shade-tolerant flowers have already made a home in the lot. The next step is to remove weed trees, which will allow more sunlight for the vegetables and other flowers that the group wants to grow.

John E. Verin

PG AWARDED NEW GRANT FOR VACANT LAND INITIATIVE

In July, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was awarded a new grant from the **William Penn Foundation** so that Philadelphia Green could continue its work on the issues surrounding urban vacant land. This follows the 1998 grant to PHS to undertake a *Vacant Land Management Study*. Completed this past spring, the Study sparked the interest of City officials, and recommendations from the Study were incorporated into a report produced by Mayor Street's Transition Team on Blight Elimination. With this new grant, Philadelphia Green will work with City government, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to develop specific policies and procedures needed to implement a vacant land management system.

Our thanks go out to the William Penn Foundation for their dedicated and continued support of this endeavor.

WEST PHILLY TAKES A "TIME OUT" FOR TREES

A volunteer surveys a street tree in West Philadelphia

If you happen to be in West Philadelphia this summer, you may come across an interesting sight: people not just enjoying the beauty and shade of trees, but really, really looking closely at them. It's possible you'll find folks looping tape measures around tree trunks, checking the condition and size of planting pits, noting the location of utility wires, and investigating for signs of disease on the trees.

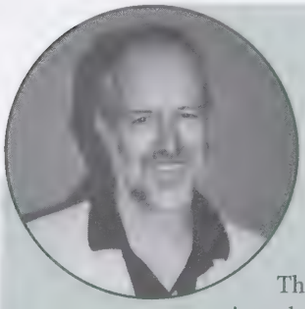
It's all part of a pilot program called **Tree Check 2000**, which is utilizing volunteers to survey the condition of street trees in West Philadelphia from 40th to 52nd Streets between Spruce and Chester. This is a collaborative effort involving the City's **Fairmount Park Commission**, the volunteer group **University City Tree Tenders**, and **Philadelphia Green**.

Through Tree Check 2000, each tree in the neighborhood will be given an identification number, then its "vital statistics" will be entered into the Fairmount Park Commission's new computerized database. The goal is to document the location, type, size, and condition of every street tree in the neighborhood, and to identify empty tree pits that could be filled with trees. Tree Check 2000 was started this summer and should be completed in the fall.

For this project, the volunteer surveyors were trained by the Commission's Andrew "Gus" Jardel, a professional arborist, and John Pillar, a computer specialist. "This is the first time Fairmount Park has agreed to use this kind of volunteer-collected data as part of its database," said Philadelphia Green's Mindy Maslin. "Our work has to be 90% accurate in West Philly for them to accept input from other areas."

Mindy also makes the point that detailed data can help secure funding for the city's urban forest. She adds, "if Fairmount Park can say we have 42 trees that pose an imminent threat, or 115 empty pits where we could plant new trees, it's much more compelling to a funder than to merely say that we need more trees and want more money."

Tree Check 2000 is a progressive step towards the improvement of Philadelphia's urban forest. Good luck to all of you "tree doctors" out there!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LARRY STIER

Larry Stier is a teacher from head to toe. During the school year at Vare Middle School in South Philadelphia, he can be found instructing special-education students, planting trees with students in the school's tree lab, or leading a recycling drive. In his free time, he is a member of PHS's Council (its governing board) and the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. For this educator, it's easy to see that learning extends beyond the classroom.

Through a grant that made it possible for the school to build a vegetable plot, Larry was instrumental in introducing horticulture into Vare's curriculum. Fifteen years, nine vegetable beds, and a tree lab later, the school is seeing the educational benefits in their students. Many of these students are now entrants in PHS events, such as the Kids Grow Expo (formally known as the Junior Flower Show), the Philadelphia Harvest Show, and the City Gardens Contest.

"From the initial garden plot, we've grown many herbs and perennials, as well as vegetables," says Larry. "It's especially empowering for the Special Ed students who get a chance to work alongside other students, knowing that they are just as capable as the next kid. You can truly see it in their faces."

According to Larry, the highlight of the school year is when students serve up a Thanksgiving dinner at the school. He adds, "A lot of what we cook comes from the garden. We'll have eggplant, sweet potatoes, and other delectables that make for an authentic Thanksgiving feast. It's a happy time for all of us."

Larry is also a staunch environmentalist who is often seen bicycling or riding the train to work. Known at the school as the "can man," he headed up a recycling drive last year that collected an impressive 17,000 aluminum cans. Money received from this effort was put back into the garden. Thanks to Larry's efforts, the middle-school garden is a place where not only flowers and vegetables grow, but where young minds flourish as well.

Pamela Vu

PHILADELPHIA GREEN'S SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Philadelphia Green staffers **Deborah Hall, Carl Haefner**, and **Shannon Nec** are heading down south to Atlanta, Georgia. Perhaps they're going on a well-earned and much-needed vacation, you ask? Well, not exactly. They will be making a presentation on behalf of Philadelphia Green at the annual conference for the **American Community Gardening Association** (ACGA), set for September 7 - 10, 2000.

Philadelphia Green is a founding member of ACGA, a national non-profit membership organization of professionals, volunteers, and supporters of community greening in urban and rural communities. ACGA helps with the formation and growth of state and regional community gardening networks. It also develops resources in support of community gardening. (Our office currently serves as ACGA's national headquarters.)

For several years, Philadelphia Green has worked to improve the quality of open space in the city's neighborhoods, and has partnered with several community development corporations (CDCs) on these efforts. Debbie, Carl, and Shannon will be talking about our relationships and ongoing work with three of these CDCs: New Kensington CDC, Frankford Group Ministries, and Asociacion de Puertorriqueños en Marcha. "We're really looking forward to our talk in Atlanta," Debbie says. "It's a great opportunity to share the successes and challenges of our learning experiences with a group of folks from across the country."

Here's wishing Debbie, Carl, and Shannon all the best on their trip down south!

DISPLAY THE BEST OF YOUR SEASONAL BOUNTY!

The Philadelphia Harvest Show offers a wonderful opportunity to display the best flowers and veggies from your community garden. During registration and at the Show, you can also swap "gardening secrets" with your fellow peers from across the city. For information on showcasing the best of your garden, please call Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897 or e-mail: *fnarducc@pennhort.org*

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
(215) 988-8800
SEPTEMBER 2000

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

"GROWING GREEN COMMUNITIES" IN EASTERN NORTH PHILLY

by PG Staffers Debbie Hall and Keith Green

A workshop in progress at the "Growing Green Communities" event.

On August 19th, Philadelphia Green and the Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha community-development corporation (APM) hosted a celebration for residents of several eastern North Philadelphia blocks. Titled "Growing Green Communities," this event was held to show appreciation for the community's extensive greening efforts over the past few years, as well as their efforts to build partnerships. The participating sites included 1900 N. 5th Street, 2200 N. 5th Street, 1900 N. Marshall Street, 2100 N. Fairhill Street, and the Jardines and Taino housing developments.

As part of the day-long event, each block in the area was able to choose their own activity to mark the occasion. Four blocks hosted block cleanups and another cleaned a vacant lot. Others featured workshops on perennial plants, rose care, and plant propagation.

And what about the kids? Thanks to staffers from Philadelphia Green, there were numerous children's events throughout the day. At a total of four different stations, young people were able to create a Philadelphia Green postcard and decorate it with vegetable prints, or take cuttings from a jade plant and pot them up. Another fun activity was creating seed masks. Staffers Mindy Maslin and Larry Stier also went from station to station playing the greening game "Who Wants To Be An Environmentalist?" with the enthusiastic kids.

The children showed that they too have a vested interest in the neighborhood greening process. As one Philadelphia Green staff member later noted, "Before we had these children's events, they used to run through the gardens and mess things up. Now they tiptoe through them very carefully...and even help out, too!"

At the end of the day, residents came together for a good old-fashioned barbecue. Certificates of merit were handed out to site-contact people and other volunteers, showing them how much APM and Philadelphia Green appreciates their contributions to the greening process in the neighborhood.

In all, Philadelphia Green would like to thank everyone who helped make the day a success, including APM's Rose Gray, Francis Vargas, and Marcus Vidal, in addition to all the site-contact people, such as Ada Rendon, Eva Negrón, Betty and John Nieves, and Robert Jacobs, among many, many others. Also, kudos to Philadelphia More Beautiful, which provided the community volunteers with shovels, rakes, brooms, and trash bags for their respective cleanups. They also brought trucks to help haul the garbage away.

Through this community effort, everyone at the end of the day felt that they had contributed to improving their neighborhood and, in a far larger way, the quality of life in Philadelphia. It was a joyous occasion that all will long remember.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Beyond Raking: Tools and Strategies for Sustaining Our Parks
October 21, 2000 at the University of Sciences, Philadelphia PA

This year, the City Parks Association will bring together community activists, park professionals, and other nature enthusiasts to focus on how to protect and increase the assets of our parks. Also under discussion will be how to assure their continuing contribution to our quality of life.

Speakers and panelists will explore these issues from the perspectives of both the multi-acre forested park and the urban-interior park. Topics will include:

- What people appreciate in parks and how they benefit from "nearby nature."
- Finding out what needs to be done in your park and where to begin.
- Creating strategies and setting priorities.
- Taking action: Finding partners and making partnerships that work.
- In for the long haul: How to measure improvement.

Please join us and others from the city and the 'burbs to share stories, learn techniques, find helpful solutions, and celebrate your accomplishments.

Co-sponsored by: Awbury Arboretum, Fairmount Park Commission, Friends of Philadelphia Parks, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society / Philadelphia Green, and the Philadelphia Department of Recreation

When: Saturday, October 21, 2000 (8:30 am-4 pm)

Where: University of the Sciences, 600 S. 43rd Street, Philadelphia PA 19104

Registration Fees & Information: The registration fee of $25 includes continental breakfast, lunch, and all sessions.

For more information or to register, call Philadelphia Green's Joe Soprani at 215-988-8809.

BUS TOUR ENERGIZES PARK PEOPLE

On Saturday, August 19th, staff and over 30 folks from volunteer friends groups boarded a big ol' bus and toured 10 parks across the city. During the day-long event, groups shared their experiences and learned from each other's efforts.

"For the host parks on the tour, it was a little like inviting folks into your home," reflected Philadelphia Green's Joan Reilly. The tour also boasted an "open mike" session, where people told anecdotes and humorous tales about their respective parks. Added Carroll Park's Doris Gwaltney, "Each park we visited had a different personality, but as we learned, all of us share the same challenges in reclaiming our parks."

The annual tour has been held for the past three years, but this was the first time that staff prepared lunch for the group. "At first, we were a little concerned," said one anonymous park volunteer, "But fortunately, the Philadelphia Green staff can really cook!" *-John Gannon*

REMEMBERING RACHEL BAGBY

Longtime Philadelphia Green supporter Rachel Bagby passed away on August 1st at the age of 83. For over 20 years, Mrs. Bagby worked to improve the quality of life in her neighborhood around 23rd & Dauphin Streets in North Philadelphia. With support from other residents, she helped take over parcels of vacant land in the area and created over 30 gardens, as well as converting vacant buildings back into livable spaces.

Also, named in her honor is the Rachel Bagby Shared House on 20th & Dauphin, where tenants can live affordably in a family-style setting. As she told the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in a 1988 interview, "You should share your brain, your time, and your experience. The more you share with people, the happier you are."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP RESTORE HEALING GARDENS OF FRIENDS HOSPITAL

On Saturday, November 11th, from 10 am to 2 pm, Friends Hospital will be holding "Gardening with Friends," the first annual fall cleanup of the Hospital's 100-acre campus.

The healing gardens, which feature 20,000 azaleas, 245 kinds of trees and 275 species of shrubs, have been a critical part of the Hospital's treatment since it opened its doors in 1813. Volunteers can help ensure that the grounds continue to be a beautiful, healing environment for patients and visitors in the Philadelphia area.

Adults and children are needed to participate in light gardening tasks such as raking, weeding, and mulching. Lunch will be included and Friends staff will be on hand to provide assistance.

Interested volunteers can call 215-831-7803 for more information or to sign up. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held November 12th from 10 am to 2 pm. Individuals interested in other ongoing garden restoration projects at Friends Hospital can call Mona Gold at 215-831-4682.

VOLUNTEER AT THE 2001 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW!

Join us at the Pennsylvania Convention Center as a behind-the-scenes volunteer from March 3-11, 2001. If you would like to help, check the box(es) that interest you and return this form to PHS.

- ❑ Exhibitor Aides: Help exhibitors transport plants from D Hall to freight elevator and to entry area. Entry level job.
- ❑ Runner: Carry cards for corrections to and from typing table. Entry level job.
- ❑ Recorder: Log information for a plant's entry into the Show. Attention to detail and an ability to keep calm under pressure required.
- ❑ Infonet: Welcome and direct visitors to the Flower Show, help with the phone bank, serve as Show floor or Concourse ambassador, or work an information booth.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (Day)_____

Please return this coupon to: Betty Greene, PHS, 100 N. 20th St.-2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495, by December 30, 2000, or call 215-911-8826, or email: *bgreene@pennhort.org*. We will contact you with more information.

'Annabelle'

2001 GOLD MEDAL PLANT AWARDS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is proud to announce the winners of the 2001 Gold Medal Plant Awards. This award goes to superb woody plants that grow well in our region, including urban settings.

Smooth Hydrangea *(Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle')
'Annabelle' is a native shrub that can reach 3 to 5 feet in height and width at maturity. It is perfectly at home in a perennial border, naturalized garden, or as a foundation planting. For urban planting, it should be cut halfway back in the spring and protected from full-sun exposure.

American Holly *(Ilex opaca)*
American holly can be used in either formal or informal types of landscaping. It is attractive as a single-specimen evergreen tree or massed in a mixed border, hedge, or background. A grand 30- to 50-feet high at maturity, its base could become 15 feet wide, thus providing a habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Cornelian Cherry Dogwood *(Cornus mas* 'Golden Glory')
This dogwood, 'Golden Glory ', is a picturesque deciduous tree and has reliable three-season interest year after year. It can be grown as a large shrub, a small tree, or a multi-stemmed tree–whichever form better fits your landscape. Better still, it flowers profusely. *-Sheila Gmeiner*

For source information on winning plants and a portrait sheet, send a SASE with 55¢ postage to: The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Attn: Gold Medal Plant Awards, P.O. Box 7780-1839, Philadelphia, PA 19182-1642. Also visit *www.libertynet.org/phs*

OCTOBER 2000

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Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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LANDSCAPE ART

By Pamela Vu

Restoring the Grounds at the Philadelphia Museum of Art

Have you seen the new exhibit at the Art Museum? This one is not inside a gallery, but outside, free for the public to enjoy. The landscape around the Philadelphia Museum of Art is being restored with help from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program and its partners. You know Philadelphia Green for its support of neighborhood community gardens and educational programs, but Philly Green also manages downtown public spaces such as parks, streetscapes, roadways, and waterfronts. The restoration of the Museum grounds is one of its largest recent projects.

The Art Museum sits on a vast, 25-acre parcel of land overlooking the Schuylkill River, but over the years, heavy use and limited maintenance have taken a heavy toll. Recognizing the importance of this landscape to the city of Philadelphia, its residents and visitors, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Fairmount Park Commission, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art have partnered to rehabilitate the grounds over the past eight years, with guidance from landscape designers Wallace, Roberts and Todd. Today, the Museum grounds are looking more beautiful than ever.

As you ascend the East steps of the Museum (the famous *Rocky* steps), the Courtyard comes into view with newly planted shrubs, perennials, and eight young empress trees (*Paulownia tomentosa*). This spring, a lush lawn and rows of tall 'Princeton Sentry' junipers were added to the areas bordering the East steps. The embankments, once covered with nothing more than a few sickly trees and shrubs, now have new holly hedges, cherry trees, roses, and oakleaf hydrangea interplanted with perennials and annuals. Also, Eakin's Oval Plaza, at the base of the East steps, has been repaved. You'll notice new plantings along the Art Museum Drive entrance too.

According to PHS president Jane Pepper, "We anticipate the investment of additional revenues from the city's capital budget to renovate other sections of the Museum landscape and to complete the endowment fund PHS and the Art Museum are raising to ensure high-quality maintenance of the grounds for future generations."

Philadelphia Green plays an important role in the city's neighborhoods, but also works throughout the city to create and maintain a green, inviting landscape for all of us to enjoy. If you haven't seen the Art Museum lately, you owe yourself a visit.

VOLUNTEER AT THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Join us at the Pennsylvania Convention Center as a behind-the-scenes volunteer from March 3-11, 2001. If you would like to help, please check the box(es) that interest you and return this form to PHS.

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- ❑ **Runner:** Carry cards for corrections to and from typing table. Entry level job.
- ❑ **Recorder:** Log information for a plant's entry into the Show. Attention to detail and an ability to keep calm under pressure required.
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Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (Day)_____

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UPCOMING

Eastern State Penitentiary Workday
Saturday, November 11, 2000, 9am-noon

Azalea Garden Workday
Saturday, November 18, 2000, 9am-noon

Spring Garden Street Workday
Saturday, November 11, 2000, 9am-noon

Party for the Parks
(at City Hall)
Thursday, December 7, 2000, 5:30-6:30pm

Look for invitations in the mail.

FREE LECTURE SERIES

PHS and the Wagner Free Institute of Science are again co-sponsoring two six-week courses. The courses, Plant Pathology and Conservation of Rare Plants in the Philadelphia Region, are free and open to the public. Both will be held at the PHS offices, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required. Students will receive a syllabus with the reading list as part of their registration acknowledgement.
To pre-register, please call (215) 763-6529, ext. 23.

Course Descriptions:

Plant Pathology
Monday, January 22 - Monday, February 26, 2001, 7:00 p.m.
Instructor: Dr. Karen Snetselaar, St. Joseph's University
This course will examine the history of plant pathology and address the fundamentals of how plant diseases are prevented, transmitted, and cured.

Conservation of Rare Plants in the Philadelphia Region
Monday, March 26 - Monday, April 30, 2001, 7:00 p.m.
Instructor: Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler
This course will focus on the diversity of rare plants and where they grow in the Philadelphia region. We will discuss factors that are responsible for plants becoming rare and the kinds of management strategies that are needed to conserve them.

Instructor, Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler, is affiliated with the Wagner Free Institute of Science, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: BEVERLY AND DELMER GILL

By Laurie Fitzpatrick

Beverly and Delmer Gill–active PHS volunteers and volunteers at Awbury Arboretum in East Germantown–agree that volunteering for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society comes down to the simple joy of just being a part of it all. Together, they have donated their time and entered exhibits in the Philadelphia Flower Show, where they love catching up with their gardening friends year after year. They are also co-chairs of community garden entries for the Harvest Show. The Gills keep coming back for that intangible sense of community that has grown from William Penn's vision of Philadelphia as a "Greene Countrie Towne." As Delmer asserts, "It's a banner that has been picked up and carried forward by PHS and its Philadelphia Green program."

Both Delmer and Beverly came to love gardening as children thanks to their mothers, who taught them the beauty, serenity, and value of horticulture. And when they moved from West Philadelphia to East Germantown, they were very pleased to discover that their new home sat just three blocks away from Awbury, a 55-acre Victorian-era arboretum with thriving community gardens. Immediately, Delmer and Beverly added their names to the garden's waiting list and the following year, began growing vegetables and herbs in their own 10 x 20-foot plot.

Twelve years later, Delmer sits on the board of directors for Awbury, while Beverly was one of the first horticulturists hired for its landscape-training program. Their networking efforts obtain various necessities for the arboretum, everything from free wood chips and donations of seeds and plants, to lucrative service contracts for their all-woman landscape crew (some of these women came through Philadelphia's "Welfare to Work" program).

Beverly and Delmer also help with the overall maintenance of the two community gardens at Awbury, which feature raised beds that make life easier for seniors. They also take part in children's programs that cultivate young people's interested in horticulture; approximately 7,000 urban school children visit the arboretum every year. Delmer explains, "When they come out here, most kids think they're in the forest and, of course, when you think you're in the forest, you're looking for lions and tigers and bears…*oh my!* More importantly, the young people have a great time here learning about the volunteer spirit."

Delmer is always quick to point out the tremendous support the gardens receive from Philadelphia Green and Penn State Urban Gardening. He said, "We have to go back to communing with nature in order to live. And for this, a lot of thanks goes to PHS and Philly Green for being a model for urban gardening. Philadelphia is blessed in having an organization like PHS working with residents to make it an urban-greening capital."

CITY GARDENS CONTEST WINNERS

Each year, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society sponsors the City Gardens Contest in cooperation with Penn State's Urban Gardening program. It is a fun, spirited competition that lets city residents show off their imaginative and often highly creative gardens. Categories include vegetable, flower, and container gardens, parks, and "green blocks." Here are the winners in the "Community" categories.

Thomas Kroljic at the United Community Garden.

Community Children's Gardens

1st 2600 E. Dauphin Street
Regina Clark/Mary Thomas & Kids

2nd El Batey
Iris Brown & Kids

2nd Raices
Iris Brown & Kids

3rd 49th & Aspen Streets
Daisy N. Century & Kids

3rd 20th & Berks Streets
Gina Frederick & Kids

School Gardens

1st Patterson School
Maury Hutelmyer & Kids

1st Vare Middle School
Larry Stier & Kids

2nd Hackett Elementary School
Howard Goldstein & Kids

Community Combination Gardens (Large)

1st 52nd & Parkside Avenue
James Stanley & Neighbors

2nd Las Parcelas
Iris Brown & Neighbors

2nd Aspen Farms
Hayward Ford & Neighbors

2nd Awbury Community Garden
Mr. & Mrs. Delmer Gill & Neighbors

3rd 4700 Block Warrington Avenue
JoAnn Fishburn/Dennis Doyon & Neighbors

First Year Community Garden & Recipient of Eugene E. Smith Memorial Award

1st 1401 Frankford Avenue
Ed Elliss & Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens (Mid-size)

1st United Community Garden
Thomas Kroljic & Neighbors

2nd 55th & Baltimore Avenue
Marion Bush & Neighbors

2nd 1424-26-28 W. Stiles Street
J. Lee Smith & Neighbors

3rd Kimball Street
Community Garden
Tom Beckett & Neighbors

3rd Liberty Lands
Marita Fitzpatrick & Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens (Small)

1st Fitzwater 2000
Community Garden
Stephen Maciejewski & Neighbors

2nd Kailo Community Garden
Pat Lyons & Neighbors

2nd 1915-1917 N. 5th Street
Eva Negron & Neighbors

2nd 15th & Butler Streets
Minnie Radcliffe & Neighbors

3rd 57th and Beaumont Streets
Joseph Anderson & Neighbors

3rd 1342 S. 5th Street
Gina Caruso & Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens (Very Large)

1st The Spring Garden
Stephan & Kit White & Neighbors

2nd Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Maggie Dugan & Neighbors

3rd Monastery Community Garden
Jodi Jaffe & Neighbors

Convention Gardens

1st 1800 Block of Pine Street
Martin J. Rosenblum & Neighbors

1st Pine Street between 21st and 24th streets
Martin J. Rosenblum & Neighbors

Community Flower Gardens (Large)

1st 16th & Indiana Streets
Doris Phillips & Neighbors

2nd University of Pennsylvania Institute on Aging Garden
Beverly Agard & Residents

3rd River's Edge Civic Association
Romi S. Dunahugh & Neighbors

Community Flower Gardens (Mid-size)

1st 1150 S. 13th Street
Terry Bremer/James W. Ball & Neighbors

2nd 27th Street & Montgomery Avenue
Goldie Bowden/Louise Hinton & Neighbors

3rd Ports, Incorporated
Cecelia Izzard & Neighbors

Community Flower Gardens (Small)

1st 2600 E. Dauphin Street
Regina Clark/Mary Thomas & Neighbors

2nd Demonstration Garden at the Horticulture Center
Peggy Garrett & Neighbors

3rd Penn & Oxford Streets
Roy Koehler & Neighbors

Continued on page 4.

Garden Blocks

1st	1500 Block E. Berks Street Paula Hudy & Neighbors
2nd	2100 Block of Wharton Street Theressa McCormick & Neighbors
3rd	3700 Block N. 15th Street Minnie Radcliffe & Neighbors

Greenest Block in Town

1st	3500 Block of N. 24th Street Mr. & Mrs. Obediah J. Foster & Neighbors
2nd	2100 Block of Saint James Place Heather Ascher & Neighbors
2nd	2200 Block of Emerald Street Maria Ramos & Neighbors
3rd	3200 Block S. Ashmead Place Vernell Harris & Neighbors
3rd	6200 Block of Ellsworth Street John Steptoe & Neighbors

Community Parks

1st	Gorgas Park Sandy Yannatell & Neighbors
2nd	Kahn Park Joseph F. Baker & Neighbors
3rd	Elmwood Park Cathy Brady & Neighbors

Community Tree Labs

1st	Pastorius Elementary School Jean Trader/Joanna Schleif & Kids
2nd	J. H. Brown School Michael Weiss & Kids

Community Vegetable Gardens (Large)

1st	25th & Tasker Streets Josephine Jackson & Neighbors
2nd	Glenwood Green Acres James Taylor & Neighbors
3rd	Venango Street Community Vegetable Garden Harold Smith & Neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens (Mid-size)

1st	The Southerners Josephine Speights & Neighbors
2nd	Southwark Queen Village Fred Snyder & Neighbors
3rd	4200-04 Viola Street Dorothy Nero/Vannie Graham & Neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens (Small)

1st	1933-1945 N. 31st Street Maron Faison & Neighbors
2nd	28th & Cambria Streets Adrienne Izzard & Neighbors
3rd	Seedy Acres Sally McCabe & Neighbors

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

(215) 988-8800

NOVEMBER 2000

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN LAUNCHES VACANT LAND RECLAMATION PROJECT

Creating Neighborhood Assets

Mayor John Street and PHS Executive Vice President Blaine Bonham at the ribbon-cutting event on October 30th.

Since 1987, the amount of vacant land in Philadelphia has doubled, contributing to blight and threatening the quality of life in many neighborhoods. But in keeping with its 25-year history of turning vacant land into inviting green spaces, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program is working with the Federal Empowerment Zone Program in a new effort to reclaim abandoned, trash-strewn lots in eastern North Philadelphia.

On Monday, October 30th, a spirited ribbon-cutting event was held at 5th and Berks Streets to celebrate the completion of Phase One of the urban land reclamation project. This is a three-year effort to manage vacant land in the American Street corridor of West Kensington in North Philadelphia, one of three designated Empowerment Zones in the City. The Federal Empowerment Zone Program, established in 1994, provides funding to stimulate economic development in targeted urban and rural communities.

Calling neighborhood transformation one of his administration's top priorities, Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street gave a rousing speech at the ceremony. "We're going to rebuild these neighborhoods," the Mayor declared. "All we have to do is harness the resources, get people involved, and we can make these neighborhoods something very, very special."

> "All we have to do is . . . get people involved and we can make these neighborhoods something very, very special."
>
> –Mayor John F. Street

The City's newly created Office of Neighborhood Transformation is providing support for the effort as part of Mayor Street's anti-blight campaign. The Department of Licenses and Inspection and the Streets Department cleared the lots, removing over 500 cubic yards of trash and debris. Philadelphia Green is providing overall management as well as technical assistance and coordination. The Philadelphia Empowerment Zone, through the American Street Community Trust Board, provided the initial funding. Four community groups–the Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha, the Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council, the Norris Square Civic Association, and the Women's Community Revitalization Project–will manage ongoing maintenance of the reclaimed land.

PHS's executive vice president Blaine Bonham, who also spoke at the ribbon-cutting, said that the sites are carefully selected for maximum impact on the community. Vacant lots are "stabilized" by removing debris, grading and amending the soil, seeding with a low maintenance grass mix, and planting trees and shrubs to discourage dumping. This strategy not only removes blight and creates pleasant green spaces, but also helps to spur investment and revitalization efforts. Twenty-one vacant lots over four acres have been cleared and planted with trees and shrubs in the first year alone.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN BRUNCH AT THE FLOWER SHOW! SEE PAGE 2.

PHS will host a conference on vacant land, *Vacant Land in Philadelphia: Transforming Liabilities into Assets*, on March 5 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Streets. For details, please call Sonia Castro at (215) 988-8889.

The pilot program is designed to serve as a model for neighborhood transformation efforts throughout the City. Bob Grossman, Philadelphia Green project manager, explains, "It is our hope that this effort is just the beginning of a much larger effort by the City to bring new life to many neighborhoods." *–Jane Carroll*

Save the Date: Philadelphia Green Brunch at the 2001 Flower Show

On Sunday, March 11 at 11:30 am, all Philadelphia Green gardeners and volunteers are invited to the annual brunch at the 2001 Flower Show. Don't miss this great opportunity to see your fellow gardeners and PG volunteers and tour this year's Show. Your Brunch ticket will include Flower Show admission. Invitations will be mailed at the end of January.

FREE LECTURE SERIES

PHS and the Wagner Free Institute of Science are again co-sponsoring a 6-week course. **Conservation of Rare Plants in the Philadelphia Region** is free and open to the public. It will be held at the PHS offices. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required. Students will receive a syllabus with the reading list as part of their registration packet.
To pre-register, please call (215) 763-6529, ext. 23.

Conservation of Rare Plants in the Philadelphia Region
Monday, March 26 – Monday, April 30, 2001, 7:00 p.m.
Instructor: Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler

This course will focus on the diversity of rare plants and where they grow in the Philadelphia region. We will discuss factors that are responsible for plants becoming rare and the kinds of management strategies that are needed to conserve them. The instructor, Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler, is affiliated with the Wagner Free Institute of Science, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research.

ATTENTION: PHILADELPHIA GREEN COMMUNITY GARDENERS

CityWide Improvement Grants are available in 2001

Philadelphia Green's CityWide Garden Tenders program is offering grants for garden improvements in 2001. The Improvement Grants are designed to provide technical and material assistance to an existing CityWide Philadelphia Green garden. Gardens must be in operation for at least 2 years.

Garden improvements are defined as anything that would add to the beauty or security of an existing garden. Requests can include plants (trees, shrubs and perennials), construction materials, fencing repair, tools, benches, picnic tables and installation of turkey wire delivery gates. *[Note: Philadelphia Green will not dump soil or wood chips on the street. Deliveries must be made inside the garden.]*

The grant period is from March to November, 2001. To request an application, call the Philadelphia Green request line at (215) 988-8862. Leave a message with your name, address, and exact garden address. Please state that you want a CityWide Improvement Grant application. Grants will be awarded based on the activity level of the garden group and a CityWide assessment of the garden's needs. You may submit your grant application between March and September, 2001.

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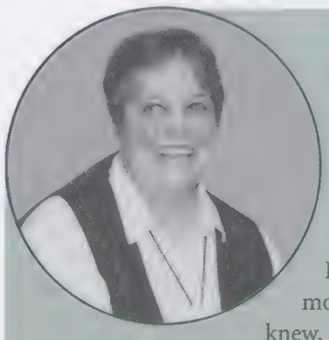

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: KATE LOAL

Kate Loal was first introduced to Philadelphia Green and PHS by her "adopted mother," the late Rena Ennis, former chair of the PG Advisory Board. Ennis was a neighbor who was raising money to build a garden. "The next thing I knew, I was volunteering for Philadelphia Green," says Kate. "With Rena you never said, 'No'," she adds. That was over 10 years ago, and Kate has remained one of Philadelphia Green's most energetic volunteers ever since.

Now a member of the PG Advisory Board herself, Kate has served on the Junior Flower Show Committee and has been a judge for the City Gardens Contest, even recruiting other judges. She has been a frequent speaker at Philadelphia Green training events, including tree care workshops for teachers and Arbor Day planning sessions.

But Kate's most important activities have always involved young people. As a teacher at Huey Elementary School for 31 years until her retirement last year, she introduced the world of horticulture to thousands of city children. At Huey, she started an after-school gardening club to encourage youngsters to enter PHS's Junior Flower Show (now called the Kids Grow Expo). For the "Blooming Beyond Tomorrow" exhibit one year, Kate's "little sprouts" built a Central Feature display using recycled materials.

Kate's students also helped in the effort to restore the Art Museum grounds and create new flower beds at City Hall–which earned them praise from the mayor as well as the news media. When Kate took a leading role in reclaiming Malcolm X Park in West Philadelphia, she got her Huey students involved there, too, putting them to work on the Malcolm X Park Patrol.

Last November, Kate's many contributions were recognized with a PHS Certificate of Merit. But to her, the most meaningful rewards come from the mouths of children. She particularly remembers one Earth Day celebration in Malcolm X Park when one of the boys came running up to her, his face beaming with excitement. Using a nickname the kids gave her, he exclaimed, "Miss Wiz, we really can make a difference!"

GREAT GARDENERS OF THE WORLD

A Sneak Peek at the 2001 Philadelphia Flower Show

The Burke Brothers display at the 2000 Flower Show.

The art of garden design takes center stage at the 2001 Philadelphia Flower Show. This year's theme, "Great Gardeners of the World," offers visitors a trip through the ages to meet influential gardener designers, experience some of the most beautiful gardens of the past and present, and envision the gardens of the future. By focusing on great design, this year's Flower Show promises to turn visitors into Great Gardeners of the World.

According to Show designer and director Ed Lindemann, the 2001 Flower Show addresses the fact that "most people come to the Flower Show not only to enjoy an early taste of spring, but also to learn more about gardening." The Show's Central Feature brings together some of the best examples of the traditional, the natural, the formal, and the ultra-modern in garden design.

Since the practice of garden design began with the ancient Egyptians, the Central Feature opens with *The First Great Gardeners of the World*, an imaginary visit to an Egyptian garden of 2000 years ago. Egyptian courtyard gardens were the first examples of ornamental gardening in recorded history. Next we visit a garden designed by the legendary British gardener Penelope Hobhouse, who has been a major influence on American gardeners for many years. Mrs. Hobhouse's display, *Bettiscombe Garden*, is a re-creation of her own garden in Dorset, England. This is her first exhibit for the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Bringing us back to the US, the Delaware Valley's own Chanticleer, located in Wayne, PA, also makes its Flower Show debut this year with *America's Romantic Pleasure Garden.* Chanticleer's chief horticulturist and executive director, Christopher Woods, is known for his unusual plant combinations and visual artistry. Woods creates a display that draws upon the theme of Chanticleer's newest attraction, a stone "ruin" that vanishes into fragrant woodland surroundings.

Finally, an important new trend in gardening is highlighted in a modern pest-resistant and disease-free garden. *Improving Plant Health with IPM*, the fourth element of the Central Feature, demonstrates the scientifically based method of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which enables the modern gardener to control pests without the use of harmful chemicals.

As always, the Marketplace, the American Gardener's Backyard, lectures, and competitive classes will offer gardeners many more opportunities for learning and enjoyment. The 2001 Philadelphia Flower Show takes place March 4 - 11 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (12th & Arch Streets). For more information, call (215) 988-8899 or visit *www.theflowershow.com* *–Jane Carroll*

Tree Tenders' Winter Wissahickon Walk

Sunday February 4th, 2 - 5 pm

Join Philadelphia Green and Fairmount Park's David Bower for the annual family-friendly walk through the winter splendor of the Wissahickon woods. Activities will include winter tree identification, natural history, and environmental games. After the walk, warm up with hot cider and storytelling in historic Thomas Mansion (please bring your stories to share).

Meet at Thomas Mansion, 6245 Wissahickon Avenue (between Walnut Lane and Johnson Street). **RSVP by January 20th to Mindy, (215) 988-8844.** In case of bad weather, activities will be moved indoors.

VOLUNTEER AT THE 2001 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Join us at the Pennsylvania Convention Center as a behind-the-scenes volunteer from March 3-11, 2001. Volunteers are needed to direct visitors to the Flower Show, help with the phone bank, serve as Show floor or Concourse ambassadors, or work the information booths.

If you would like to help, please return this form to PHS.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day)_____

Please return this coupon to: Betty Greene, PHS, 100 N. 20th St.-2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495, by January 22, 2001, or call (215) 988-8826, or e-mail: *bgreene@pennhort.org*. We will contact you with more information.

THE ART OF COMMUNITY GARDENING AT CITY HALL

Art in City Hall and PHS are pleased to announce "Community Gardens," a multi-media exhibition inspired by Philadelphia gardens. The exhibition, featuring works by 13 artists, will be on view from **January 31 to April 20, 2001** on the 2nd and 4th floors of City Hall. There will be an opening reception on January 31 from 5:00-7:00 pm. For more information, call David Foss at (215) 683-2078.

Sarah McEneaney, Rain, *1996, Egg tempera on wood.*

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
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Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
(215) 988-8800

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

A New Look for Southwark

Using Garden Courtyards to Connect City Residents

Last summer, a new landscape began to take shape at the Courtyard Apartments at Riverview, on the site of the former Southwark Homes public-housing complex in South Philadelphia. Two of three high-rise towers were imploded and replaced with townhouse-style apartments. The third tower was refurbished and now provides low-cost housing for senior citizens. Bounded by Christian & Washington and 3rd & 5th Streets, the new development is the result of a public-private partnership coordinated by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC).

At LISC's invitation, Philadelphia Green served as a consultant on the project. PG staff oversaw the bidding and construction phases, sought input from residents, and managed the landscape architecture firm, Margie Ruddick Landscape, which designed green spaces for the new development. The recently completed landscape creates a continuous "stream" of greenery that connects Riverview's seven courtyards with the parking areas and the townhouses.

Each courtyard has a distinct character. For example, one has a grove of cherry trees surrounded by upright yews and shrub roses, while another is planted with junipers, willows, and ornamental grasses. PG project coordinator Julie Snell, who supervised the work, points out that "the landscape architects intentionally chose a lot of multi-branching trees and flowering shrubs, which makes for a lush landscape all year round. Some of the plants, like witch hazel, bloom right through the winter months."

Thirty-two barrel planters were also installed on several blocks of the development, giving Riverview residents the opportunity to get actively involved. Colorful annuals such as coleus, lantana, verbena, and sweet potato vine were planted during the summer. In November, those plants were replaced with hollies and Alberta spruces for winter greenery. The residents, many of whom had little or no horticultural experience, quickly took on watering and other day-to-day maintenance tasks after receiving training from Philadelphia Green staff. Mark Teller, PG program manager, says the residents will be invited to the Spring Plant Sale and will take part in workshops on how to rejuvenate their planters for the next growing season. Teller thinks this

continued on page 2

Spreading new grass seed in a courtyard at Riverview.

Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia

Sundays: 8 am – 6 pm
Monday – Friday: 10 am – 9:30 pm
Saturday: 8 am – 9:30 pm

ADMISSION
Purchase your tickets in advance and save!
Adults: $18
Children 2 – 12 years: $10

Flower Show tickets are available at participating PNC Bank branches, ACME Markets, SEPTA ticket sales outlets, Smith & Hawken stores, AAA Mid-Atlantic branches, Clemens Markets, Philadelphia area Barnes & Noble stores, local garden centers, nurseries and florists.

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
www.theflowershow.com

Produced by THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Presenting Sponsor PNC

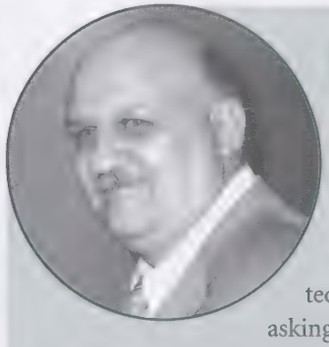
A New Look for Southwark (cont'd)

kind of long-term partnership will be very successful. "We had a lot of fun with the residents," he says. "Once they saw what could be done, there was a lot of interest and participation."

The new landscape also connects the apartments to the surrounding neighborhood. "There is a lovely historic church on 4th Street—the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church," Snell says. "Flowering magnolias and hydrangeas are going in next to the church to visually blend the courtyards with the church yard, extending both spaces." Care was also taken to preserve sight lines across Christian Street, allowing for a nice view of an existing community garden.

Planting thornless honey locust trees in the parking court off 3rd Street.

Nancy O'Donnell, PG project manager, believes the project is especially noteworthy for the diversity of the plantings. "The landscape designers chose an exceptionally rich variety of plants, in contrast to the stark look of older public housing sites," she observes. "Riverview really represents a new way of thinking about this kind of urban development. The emphasis on horticultural design is unusual—not only for an urban housing development, but for any housing development anywhere." – *Jane Carroll*



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Marc Zaharchuk

When asked how he first became involved with PHS, Marc Zaharchuk replied, "That's easy—they asked me." A native of Philadelphia's Fairmount neighborhood, Marc spotted a notice in a community newspaper asking for volunteers to help take care of the recently restored Azalea Garden near the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Over the years, Marc became "a very special volunteer," says PHS Public Landscapes manager Kathryn Newland. "He keeps an eye on things and has often worked in the garden on his own in addition to showing up for almost every scheduled workday." Marc served as chair of the Friends of the Azalea Garden for many years.

Lacking prior experience in horticulture, Marc attended PHS training classes on basic plant care—everything from watering to pruning to dividing perennials. After that, he was hooked. He discovered that gardening offered a way to restore a personal connection to nature, something that is often hard to come by in the city.

After his first big job in the Azalea Garden—planting daffodil bulbs—it wasn't long before Marc got involved in other PHS activities. He started helping out with beautification efforts at Eastern State Penitentiary and City Hall, as well as the Art Museum landscape restoration project. He served on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board for six years and completed two three-year terms on the PHS Council. Along the way, he took training in Integrated Pest Management and composting. Marc also helps out with the Philadelphia Flower Show as one of the "roving ambassadors," who walk around the Show floor answering questions and directing visitors.

In 1997, Marc left his longtime Philadelphia neighborhood for upper Bucks County. "Many of my Fairmount neighbors had come to the city from rural areas and had an instinctive sense about gardening, but for me, it was the opposite," he observes. "I knew that, some day, I might want to live where I had more space. I got the landscaping experience in the city and took it with me to the suburbs."

True to the spirit of volunteering, Marc has gotten involved with beautification efforts in his new home, serving on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Delaware Canal. But he remains active with PHS and the Azalea Garden. "Caring for landscapes," he says, "is an integral part of life." – *Jane Carroll*

UPCOMING TREE TENDERS EVENTS

Lecture on Tree Planting Hazards by Alan Jones of Bartlett Tree Experts

- **Date/time:** Wednesday, March 14, 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm
- **Place:** PHS Auditorium
- **RSVP:** Dawn Johns at (215) 988-8845 by March 12

Bare-root Tree Workshop

Learn the basics of bare-root trees, from their advantages to correct planting techniques.

- **Date/time:** Wednesday, March 21, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
- **Place:** PHS Auditorium
- **RSVP:** Mindy Maslin at (215) 988-8844 or mmaslin@pennhort.org

Tree Tenders Teachers Training

The basic nine-hour training for teachers and other educators (Act 48 approved).
Topics range from tree awareness and care to coordinating service-learning projects.

- **Date/time:** Two Wednesdays: March 28 and April 4, 4:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Place:** PHS, 100 North 20th Street, Philadelphia
- Please call Marsha Low at (215) 988-8843 for an application.

Tree Tenders Teachers Picnic *Open to all educators.*

The hands-on part of the Tree Tenders Training. Topics include tree identification, basic pruning and tree awareness games.

- **Date/time:** Saturday, March 31 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- **Place:** Aubury Arboretum, Washington Lane and Chew Avenue in Germantown
- **RSVP:** Marsha Low at (215) 988-8843

The 5th Annual Bike Tour of Philadelphia's Historic Trees

Join us for an easy, family friendly bike ride where success is counted in trees spotted, not in miles covered.

- **Date/time:** Sunday, April 29, 12:00 – 4:00 pm
- **Place:** Meet at Lloyd Hall. (Boat House #1 along Kelly Drive behind the Art Museum.)

Kids Grow Expo (formerly the Junior Flower Show)

- **Date/time:** May 7 – 10
- **Place:** The Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park
- Please all Kay Gramiak at (215) 988-8861 for a schedule of entry categories.

And Save these Dates

Tree Tenders Basic Training Workshops
June 6, 14, and 20, 6:00 – 9:00 pm and June 16, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Expand your Tree Tenders group. Tell neighbors how easy and fun it is to become a Tree Tender. (Don't forget to mention the pizza!) Call for applications.

Benefits of Trees Conference
June 28, 2001 (tentative date), 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

How trees help to reduce violence, make our business districts more successful, and generally improve our urban lives.

Tree Farming Conference
July 13, 2001 (tentative date), 8:00 – 3:00 pm

Information, resources, and networking to enhance and expand community tree farming efforts in the Philadelphia area.

2001 PHILADELPHIA TREE TENDERS LIST AND RESOURCES

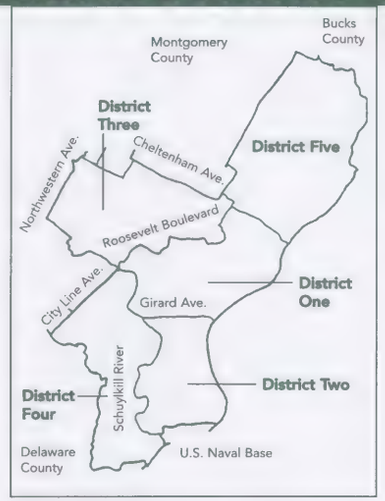
Note: All phone numbers are in the 215 area code unless otherwise indicated

DISTRICT ONE

1. East Falls Tree Tenders
   Cynthia Kishinchand, 849-2474
2. Frankford Group
   Janet Bernstein, 744-5516
3. Impact Services
   Phyllis Martino, 739-1600
4. Fishtown Tree Tenders
   Zoa Schisler, 423-1025
5. Kensington South
   Patrick O Connor, 739-6362
6. 2400 Block East Dauphin
   Lynn Shain, 425-1302
7. Leithgow Tree Tenders
   Tara Kuilan, 425-5095
8. Mc Pherson Square Tree Tenders
   Linda Lockyer, 423-5467

DISTRICT TWO

9. Bel Arbor Tree Farm
   Carla Puppin, 339-0248
10. Fairmount Parents/Business, Neighbors Association
    Rose Marie Pasicznyk, 236-2671
11. Fairmount Water Works
    Ed Grusheski, 685-6110
12. Friends of Cianfrani Park
    Elaine Ulmer, 627-0732
13. Friends of Eastern State Penitentiary
    Marie Holman, 566-5463
14. 400 Block of Dickinson
    Kirk Brown, 551-6186
15. Gaskill/Bainbridge
    Henry Hauptfuhrer, 925-2696
16. Kater Street
    Marsha Canfield, 592-1614
17. Liberty Lands
    Janet Finegar, 627-4633



18. Logan Square Association
    Wylie Garcia, 568-4745
19. Norris Square
    Iris Brown, 634-2227
20. Northern Liberties Tree Tenders
    Sara Olsen, 922-6732
21. Passyunk Tree Tenders
    Andrea Krupp, 463-8215
22. Pigs Alley Committee
    Bill Gannotta, 236-9619
23. Philadelphian Apartments
    Molly Albert, 763-8311
24. Society Hill Civic Association
    Cherry Bombeck, 627-1356
25. South Philadelphia
    Susan Petrone, 467-3011
26. Spring Garden Tree Tenders
    Stephan White, 236-2754
27. 2100 Fitzwater Garden Committee
    Kathy Garvin, 546-6455
28. Penn State Urban Gardening
    Doris Stahl, 471-2224
29. Washington Square West
    Virginia Trosino, 625-2599
30. Women's Community Revitalization Project
    Syreeta Bennett, 627-5550 x226
31. Young Men Inc.
    Myron Reddy, 232-7303

DISTRICT THREE

32. Awbury Arboretum
    Tom Manns, 849-2855
33. Central Roxborough Civic Association
    Jill Schneider, 483-2952
34. C.W. Henry School
    Steve Donegan, 232-5459
35. Duval Improvement Association
    Madeline McGee, 848-0565
36. Friends of Queen Lane Station
    Nanci Harmon, 848-2854
37. Friends of Kemble Park
    Louis Broadus, 927-0691
38. Germantown Greene
    Ruthe Yaskin, 844-2328
39. Manayunk Neighbors
    Jane Glenn, 482-5528
40. Oaklane Tree Tenders
    Charles Phillips, 232-9793
41. Penn-Knox Neighbors
    Tina LeCoff, 923-8000
42. Pulaski-Roberts Gateway Project
    Nick Roush, 848-5741
43. Roxborough Tree Tenders
    John Boyce, 487-3725
44. Schuyler Street Tree Tenders
    Pat Urevick, 848-5226
45. Upper Roxborough Tree Tenders
    Daniel Hoffman, 482-3461
46. Wayne-Hannsberry Community Garden
    Al Ford, 849-1331
47. West Mt. Airy Tree Tenders
    Gayle Koster, 248-4909
48. Wissahickon Neighbors Civic Association
    Forest Aegiano, 483-0958
49. Wissahickon Stewardship Program
    David Bower, 991-3272
50. Manayunk Development Corporation
    Becky Corman, 482-9565 x202

DISTRICT FOUR

51. Baltimore Avenue in Bloom
    Mike Hardy, 386-0365
52. Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders
    Johanna Fine, 724-4517
53. Environmental Partners
    Andrea Hall & Norman Rogers, 471-0575
54. Friends of Clark Park
    Paul Brooks, 222-5339
55. Larsage Neighbors
    Joe Shapiro, 476-6109
56. Mantua Green Tree Tenders
    Beverly Lawrence, 222-7852
57. Point Breeze Tree Tenders
    Mamie Nichols, 334-2666
58. Powelton Village Civic Association
    Marilynn Taylor, 386-2240
59. Regent Square Tree Tenders
    Allison Williams, 662-5114
60. 6200 Ellsworth Street
    John Steptoe, 472-2120
61. Spruce Hill Community Association Tree Tenders
    Amanda Benner, 222-3835
62. The Over-The-Hill Gang
    Jacquelyn Wright, 727-1693
63. University City Green
    Esaul Sanchez, 386-1827
64. Wynnefield Residents Association
    Skip Wiener, 877-7203
65. 5500 Block of Pemberton Street
    Catheryn Simmons, 726-0618
66. 300 Block of S. 43rd Street
    Michelle Robinson, 222-5357

DISTRICT FIVE

67. Friends of Fox Chase Farm
    Jim Kates, 673-2981
68. Friends Hospital
    Mona Gold, 831-4682
69. Holmesburg Civic Association
    Skip Potts, 624-8362

NEW JERSEY

70. Collingswood Horticultural Society
    Gayle Reedy, 609-854-3592

Fairmount Park Commission Park Manager: Pat Crossnan 610-352-8645

DISTRICT ARBORISTS:

District 1 – North Philadelphia Gus Jardel, 685-0108
(Zip codes: 191 ... 21, 22, 24, 25, 29, 32, 33, 34, 37, 40)

District 2 – Center City and South Philadelphia Mike Helsen, 685-1837
(Zip codes: 191 ... 02, 03, 06, 07, 23, 30, 45, 46, 47, 48)

District 3 – Northwest Philadelphia Ernie Barile, 685-2577
(Zip codes: 191 ... 18, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28, 38, 41, 44, 50)

District 4 – West and Southwest Philadelphia Rich Sunday, 610-352-8644
(Zip codes: 191 ... 04, 31, 39, 42, 43, 51, 53)

District 5 – Northeast Philadelphia Charlie Patton, 685-8795
(Zip codes: 191 ... 11, 14, 15, 16, 35, 36, 49, 52, 54)

RESOURCES

Mindy Maslin, Tree Tenders Training	988-8844
Marsha Low, Tree Tenders Teacher Training	988-8843
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	988-8800
PHS "Ask a Gardener: Garden Q & A" Hotline	988-8777
PHS Library (Open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm)	988-8622
Fairmount Park Recycling Center, Ford Road (Monday through Saturday, 7:30 am - 3:00 pm)	685-0109
Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania (plant clinic, ext.141)	247-5777
Pennsylvania One-Call System, "Call Before You Dig"	1-800-242-1776
Penn State Urban Forestry Program, Julianne Schieffer	610-489-4315
Penn State Urban Gardening Program, soil testing kits	471-2224

Party for the Parks

Story by Jeff Tober,
Parks project coordinator

Volunteers Eddie and Tatiana Cantres in action at Cliveden Park.

Every December since 1997, Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project has thrown a "Party for the Parks" to recognize and honor park volunteers and Department of Recreation staff, and to celebrate the progress we've made together restoring Philadelphia's neighborhood parks. Each year we've had more parks represented and more people in attendance. In 1999, we moved the event from PHS to City Hall to accommodate the growing crowds.

On Thursday, December 7th, 2000, with plenty of food and beverages on hand, we came together again to celebrate our success. PHS's executive vice president Blaine Bonham reviewed the many accomplishments we've achieved together in 2000, such as planting 280 trees and thousands of flowers, revitalizing 14 acres of grass, and recruiting over 3,000 volunteers. At-Large Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, chair of the Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, offered her encouragement and gratitude to the volunteers. She expressed amazement at the number and diversity of neighborhoods involved in the parks revitalization process.

This was the first parks celebration for the City's new recreation commissioner, Victor N. Richard III, and he received a warm reception from the crowd. He added his thanks and congratulations to everyone; then, he and Blaine presented awards to 23 "Volunteers of the Year," who were chosen by their own "Friends of the Park" groups. Winners of the award received a gift basket—enclosed in a watering can, naturally—courtesy of PHS and Fresh Fields Markets. The annual Steering Committee Award, for a Department of Recreation staff member who goes above and beyond the call of duty, went to parks coordinator Barbara McCabe.

Rita Sauer of Wissonoming Park with Recreation Commissioner Victor N. Richard III.

After the awards ceremony, the audience was treated to an exciting, multi-media production created by PHS staff. Through slides, music, and recorded interviews, park leaders told the stories of how their parks were transformed and what it has meant to their communities and to them personally. The sights and sounds wove an inspiring story—a living example of all that can be accomplished by working together.

We extend many thanks to everyone who made the evening possible. And we hope to see you on December 6, 2001, for the 5th annual Party for the Parks.

Park Volunteers of the Year

Bardascino Park: Carla Puppin
Barkan Park: Norman Buchanan
Carroll Park: Rasheed Storey
Clark Park: Fran Byers
Cliveden Park: Vicki Burks
Disston Park: Madalyn Hall
Elmwood Park: Cathy Brady
Fairhill Square: Edith Brown
Fairview Park: Bill Jenkins
Girard Park: Frank Farmar
Gorgas Park: Sandy Yannatel and Mike Sweeney
Kahn Park: Brearly Karsch
Konrad Square: Bill Trost
Malcolm X Memorial Park: Gregorio Pac Cojolun
Manayunk "Pretzel" Park: Irene Biernacki
Mario Lanza Park: Gail Chapman
Mifflin Square: Charlie Oakes
Norris Square: Stan Sautner
Vernon Park: Cheryl Frazier
Wharton Square: Eddie Brooker
Wissinoming Park: Rita Sauer
Womrath Park: Victoria Skelton

Attention: Philadelphia Green Community Gardeners

CityWide Improvement Grants are available in 2001

Philadelphia Green's CityWide Garden Tenders program is offering grants for garden improvements in 2001. The Improvement Grants provide technical and material assistance to an existing Philadelphia Green garden. Gardens must be in operation for at least 2 years.

Garden improvements are defined as anything that adds to the beauty or security of an existing garden. Requests can include plants (trees, shrubs and perennials), construction materials, fencing repair, tools, benches, picnic tables and installation of turkey wire delivery gates. *[Note: Philadelphia Green will not dump soil or wood chips on the street. Deliveries must be made inside the garden.]*

The grant period is from March to November, 2001. To request an application, call the Philadelphia Green request line at (215) 988-8862. Leave a message with your name, address, and exact garden address. Please ask for a "CityWide Improvement Grant" application. Grants will be awarded based on the activity level of the garden group and a staff assessment of the garden's needs. You may submit your grant application between March and September, 2001.

Philadelphia Green News is published by The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495.

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Send address changes to:
Diane Humphries, address above
or e-mail *dhumphri@pennhort.org*

Get Ready for the Spring 2001 Philadelphia Green Plant Sale

Mark your calendar! The annual Spring Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park.

This year, the sale has been expanded to include a wider variety of plants. In addition to popular annuals and perennials, we're offering many unusual varieties, including bulbs, Gold Medal Plants, organic and heirloom seeds—all available for pre-order. You'll also find a pre-packaged collection of plants to help you create your own designer container, along with gardening supplies and more. Order forms will be mailed at the end of March.

PHS and the City of Philadelphia will host a conference on vacant land, *Vacant Land in Philadelphia: Transforming Liabilities into Assets*, on March 5 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Streets. For details, please call Sonia Castro at (215) 988-8889.

MARCH/APRIL 2001

(215) 988-8800

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Big Improvements at Liberty Lands Park

Volunteers work on the playground equipment at Liberty Lands

Liberty Lands, a two-acre park in the heart of the Northern Liberties neighborhood and one of Philadelphia Green's Keystone Gardens, has a lot to celebrate this spring. Built in 1996 on the site of a former leather-processing plant, the park has long struggled with erosion and runoff due to rocky, "hardpan" soil conditions. But thanks to a grant from the Philadelphia Urban Resource Partnership, along with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Philadelphia Green, Liberty Lands now has a truly "green" new space to enjoy.

The park—built, maintained, and owned by the community—contains more than 150 trees, over 30 community-garden plots, a butterfly garden, and a medicinal herb garden. Local artist Dennis Haugh, who has been involved with Liberty Lands since the beginning, recalls that the very first trees planted were left-overs from the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Dennis's mural, "Cinema Verde," includes a blank space that will serve as a projection screen for the neighborhood's "lawn chair cinema" series, when movies are shown outdoors in the park. The mural also celebrates the neighborhood's industrial past. Aside from the tannery, several breweries and a grist mill—operating in the late 1600s—were once located in this section of the city.

But the park's main open space "has always been full of rubble, and we had a lot of problems with drainage and runoff," says Janet Finegar, one of the park's organizers. "Every time we planted a tree," she explains, "we unearthed piles of brick and concrete leftover from the factory demolition." But new topsoil was recently brought in, and the central area has been seeded with a special seed mix devised by PG staff member Eileen Gallagher. The new, low-maintenance grass will also help control erosion.

In addition to the new green space, the park is also celebrating a new "Playground in the Park," constructed by volunteers. The east section of the playground, primarily for toddlers, is nearly complete, and recycled-plastic play equipment for older children will be in place by the fall.

Community gardens at Liberty Lands

Part of the funding for the playground comes from the annual Northern Liberties Garden Tour and Birdhouse Auction, held each spring. This year's tour takes place on Saturday, May 19. (See left for details).

– Jane Carroll

Northern Liberties Garden Tour and Birdhouse Auction

Saturday, May 19
(Raindate Sunday, May 20)
12:00 – 4:30 pm, followed by reception
$10 adults, $5 students and seniors, children under 12 free

Tickets are available in advance at the Northern Liberties Neighbors Association, 733 N. 2nd Street, or on the day of the tour at 833 N. 5th Street. For more information, please call (215) 627-6562.

PHS Hosts Vacant Land Conference

Not far from dozens of glorious garden displays at the Philadelphia Flower Show, about 400 people from across the region gathered on March 5 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center to discuss a different kind of landscape scene—the 30,000 vacant and blighted parcels of land in Philadelphia. They came together for a regional conference, "Vacant Land in Philadelphia: Transforming Liabilities into Assets," co-hosted by PHS and the City of Philadelphia's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative. Co-sponsors included the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations, the US Department of Agriculture, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.

Attended by City officials and neighborhood organizations—as well as representatives from Detroit, Cleveland, Baltimore and Chicago—the conference was the first step in advancing a vacant-land management strategy for Philadelphia. Mayor John Street gave a rousing speech affirming that the issue of neighborhood blight is one of his administration's top priorities.

To illustrate the enormity of the vacant land problem, PHS executive vice president Blaine Bonham explained, "Ten years ago, there was enough vacant land to fill an area from the Schuylkill to the Delaware River, from Vine Street to Washington Avenue… since then, the amount has doubled." He called for "partnerships and collaboration" among government, residents, community-based organizations, technical assistance agencies, and businesses as the most effective way to address the problem.

The vacant-land management programs initiated by Philadelphia Green over the past five years in the New Kensington neighborhood and the American Street Empowerment Zone have demonstrated successful approaches to addressing this pressing urban challenge.

Mayor John Street speaks at the conference

PHS, through its Philadelphia Green program, is proud to play a leading role in addressing the City's vacant land problem. From transforming hundreds of vacant lots into thriving community gardens to managing public landscapes such as Penn's Landing and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia Green has been revitalizing urban open space for over 25 years.

– Mike Groman
director, Philadelphia Green

Iris Brown (top) and Tomasita Romero

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Iris Brown and Tomasita Romero

For over 10 years, Iris Brown and Tomasita Romero have been growing a sense of community along with the plants in the gardens of the Norris Square neighborhood in North Philadelphia. Tomasita is a past president of the Norris Square Neighborhood Project Advisory Board, while Iris is a full-time employee. The Norris Square Neighborhood Project is a community-based organization that worked with Philadelphia Green to establish five community gardens in the neighborhood.

Together, the two friends work to keep the gardens beautiful and to make sure they reflect the culture of this primarily Puerto Rican community. Many of the structures in the Norris Square gardens take their inspiration from Puerto Rican folk art and culture. Iris and Tomasita run after-school programs for children, youth, and neighborhood gardeners, using the gardens to help preserve and share as much as they can of Puerto Rican history and traditional culture, while promoting the joys of horticulture. They also work with youngsters in the City of Philadelphia's summer youth corps, run by the Private Industry Council.

Iris and Tomasita also formed a group of women and girls called *Grupo Motivo*, whose participants range in age "from 8 to 87," according to Iris. The women grow herbs that are popular in Puerto Rican cuisine, then use the herbs in cooking workshops and community get-togethers.

Iris and Tomasita are both members of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and they take part in many other PHS activities. Tomasita represented the community in the early stages of the American Street Empowerment Zone vacant land project, and Iris serves on the PHS education committee.

Working with Philadelphia Green "has been a blessing for our neighborhood," says Iris. "It has opened the door to many other projects that are making a difference in our community." Tomasita cites the personal rewards of community gardening. "When you're a gardener," she says, "you share plants, friendships…you share everything you have."

– Jane Carroll

Attention City Gardeners! Enter the 2001 City Gardens Contest

To Enter the City Gardens Contest:

If you garden in Philadelphia, you qualify to enter the City Gardens Contest. Amateur gardeners compete in a number of different categories from flower to vegetable to container gardens. **Just fill out the form below and mail to: City Gardens Contest, PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 by June 10.** Good luck!

Be a Judge:

Spend a July day among thriving tomatoes, zinnias, petunias, and zucchini. Visit gardens as large as a city block or as tiny as a backyard patio. Help choose the winners! Please call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897, or send her an e-mail at *fnarducc@pennhort.org*

June 10 is the deadline to become a judge or to enter as a contestant. For more information, please call Flossie Narducci, (215) 988-8897, or send her an e-mail at fnarducc@pennhort.org

Win Great Prizes

Winners receive $50, $25, and $10 gift certificates. All winners receive a one-year membership to The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

City Gardens Contest Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address of garden: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Check appropriate category:

Individual Gardens

- ☐ Individual Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Individual Flower Garden
- ☐ Combination Flower/Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Individual Container Garden
- ☐ Child's Garden

Community Gardens

- ☐ Community Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Community Flower/Sitting Garden
- ☐ Combination Vegetable/Flower Garden
- ☐ Children's Garden
- ☐ "Garden Block" with window boxes and sidewalk planters
- ☐ "The Greenest Block in Town" (street trees/front yards)

Philadelphia Green Welcomes New Advisory Board Chair and Members

At the winter meeting of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, outgoing Board Chair Ingrid Fluellen passed the torch to her successor, **Beverly Gill.** Beverly has been a member of the Advisory Board for many years and an active volunteer with Philadelphia Green and PHS. Excited about her new role, Beverly says that one of her goals is to "try to connect people and get more people to participate in Philadelphia Green."

Philadelphia Green also welcomes the following new members to the Advisory Board:

Andrew Brazington
Leomar T. Cooper
Victor Jackson
Robert Jacobs
Susan Patrone
Ada Rendon
Marilynn Taylor
Anne Kellett, *ex-officio*

Winter Skills Conference: A Philadelphia Green Collaboration

Last January, over 100 Garden Tenders, Tree Tenders, Friends of Parks, and other volunteers gathered to participate in the Philadelphia Green Winter Skills Conference. This first-ever gathering of volunteers from many communities representing a wide range of greening projects allowed the participants to gain an appreciation not only for the differences in their work, but also for the many similarities. Said John Boyce, president of Friends of Gorgas Park, "I never attend one of these events without learning something new."

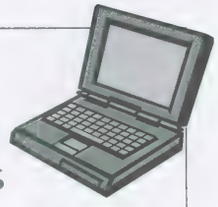
Participants chat at the Winter Skills Conference.

The conference included sessions on plant selection, meeting facilitation, grant writing, tree hazard identification, and volunteer recruitment and retention. Steve Maurer, PHS public relations manager, and Denise Cowie of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* offered valuable lessons on working with the media. Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, a staunch supporter of Philadelphia Green, explained the process of working with City Council to obtain funding for community projects. She stressed that advocacy for greening projects is a continual process in which preparation, patience, and perseverance can achieve positive results.

– Bill LeFevre
Parks Revitalization project manager

Mike Groman, director of Philadelphia Green, addresses a group of participants.

A New Website for Urban Parks



All around the country, thousands of people are hard at work improving their parks. Now there is a Web-based, national resource center to help. Urban Parks *online*, a site produced and managed by the Urban Parks Institute at Project for Public Spaces in New York, has redesigned and expanded its web site to include a wealth of information on urban parks, park management and funding, innovative program ideas, park news and more.

The improved website was made possible through a grant from the Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds, which also supports Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project. As part of this grant, locally based websites—including one for Philadelphia Parks—will be developed. Philadelphia is one of three pilot cities, along with Cleveland and Brooklyn, to create a local parks website.

Pay a visit soon and see how the site can help you help your park thrive.
www.pps.org/urbanparks

Volunteer at the 2001 Philadelphia Harvest Show

Harvest Hoedown

Saturday & Sunday, September 15 – 16
Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park

Help make the 2001 Philadelphia Harvest Show another bountiful Show. If you'd like to work behind the scenes this year and will be available Wednesday through Sunday, September 12 – 16, please fill out this form and mail to: PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495, Attn: Betty Greene or e-mail *bgreene@pennhort.org*

Harvest Show Shoppe

Sign up now to assist in set-up or sales at the Harvest Show Shoppe. Volunteers are needed for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 15, 16 and 17. Please call Shani Risien-Harvey at (215) 988-1613 or e-mail her at *srisienharvey@pennhort.org* by August 15.

Sign me up to help at the Harvest Show!

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Telephone _____

Clerks

Friday, 9/14	9:30 am –12:30 pm	☐

Setup

Wednesday, 9/12	9 am – 4 pm	☐
Thursday, 9/13	9 am – 4 pm	☐

Horticulture Information Booth

Friday, 9/14	4 – 7 pm	☐
Saturday, 9/15	10 am – 5 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	10 am – 5 pm	☐

Entry Aids

Thursday, 9/13	3:15 – 7 pm	☐
Friday, 9/14	7:15 – 10 am	☐

Information Aides

Welcome and direct visitors

Friday, 9/14	3:30 – 5 pm	☐
	5:15 – 7:15 pm	☐
Saturday, 9/15	9:30 am – noon	☐
	noon – 2:30 pm	☐
	2:30 – 5 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	9:30 – noon	☐
	noon – 2:30 pm	☐
	2:30 – 5 pm	☐

Youth Section Aides

Thursday, 9/13	2 – 4:30 pm	☐
	4:30 – 7 pm	☐
Friday, 9/14	7:30 – 10:30 am	☐
Saturday, 9/15	11 am – 3 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	11 am – 3 pm	☐

Children's Activities

Saturday, 9/15	11 am – 4 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	11 am – 4 pm	☐

Veggie Races

Saturday, 9/15	9 am – 5 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	9 am – 5 pm	☐

SPRING INTO YOUR PARK

Saturday, May 12

Philadelphia Green and the Philadelphia Department of Recreation invite you to "Spring Into Your Park" on Saturday, May 12 for the third annual city-wide cleanup. Join hundreds of Philadelphians who care about parks as they paint, rake, sweep, plant, picnic, sing and dance. This is a great way to help spruce up your park, meet your neighbors, have fun and get a free t-shirt, too!

Most park groups will hold activities between 10 am and 3 pm. Activities and times vary from park to park. For specific information, please call Bill LeFevre at (215) 988-8887, or send him an e-mail at *blefevre@pennhort.org*

Harvest Show Challenge Classes

What is a Challenge Class? Challenge Class exhibitors must grow their entries from seed. You may buy your own seeds or obtain them from PHS. All varieties must be grown in a container. Entries will be judged on quality, size, and condition of plants and on the overall appearance of the container. Only one plant per container is permitted. Entries will be judged on quality, size, and condition of plants and on the overall appearance of the container. **Limited quantities of seeds are available from PHS through June 30.**

Class 220	*Pelargonium* x *hortorum* 'Elite' Hybrid, red (Geranium)
Class 221	*Lavandula angustifolia* Munstead Strain (Lavender)
Class 222	*Swiss Chard* 'Bright Lights'

Order early so that your seeds can be planted in time for optimum growth. Send your seed requests to:

Harvest Show Challenge Seeds
c/o Shows Department
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

UPCOMING EVENTS

Peter Harnik to Speak at Friends of Philadelphia Parks Meeting

Peter Harnik, noted environmental writer and activist, will be the guest speaker at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Friends of Philadelphia Parks. Harnik, co-founder of the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, is the author of *Inside City Parks*, a newly published study of the park and recreation systems of the 25 largest cities in the U.S.

The meeting will be held on June 5, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park, just off Montgomery Avenue between Belmont Avenue & West River Drive. RSVP (215) 879-8159.

Wynnefield Library Garden Club

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the gardens at the Wynnefield branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, located at the corner of 54th Street and Overbrook Avenue, about 1 block from City Ave. After-school horticulture programs are also forming. For more information, please call the library at (215) 685-0298.

2nd Regional Urban Greening Forum: Community Tree Farming

Friday, July 13, 8 am – 3 pm, Walter Biddle Saul High School, 7100 Henry Avenue
The all-day conference will focus on community tree farming in the Philadelphia region. For more information, please contact Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844 or *mmaslin@pennhort.org*

Correction: Fairmount Tree Tenders

In the "2001 Philadelphia Tree Tenders List and Resources" list, published in the March/April newsletter, the listing for District Two (#10) was incorrect. The Fairmount group is called "Fairmount Tree Tenders," and the contact person is David Braun, (215) 684-1234.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Creating a Garden Village in University City

The Walnut Street Greenway

What happens when you combine five city blocks, 108 street trees, and 1200 volunteers? A newly green stretch of Walnut Street, between 43rd and 48th Streets in University City, called the Walnut Street Greenway.

Organized by University City Green (UC Green), a program of the University of Pennsylvania, the March 24 tree-planting extravaganza went off without a hitch. Volunteers included neighborhood residents, students from West Philadelphia High School, members of eight Philadelphia Green Tree Tender groups, and students from Penn and seven other colleges in the Philadelphia area. Also on hand were 25 college students from Tennessee, who had devoted their Spring Break to community service. There were so many volunteers, in fact, that the planting was done by noon—four hours ahead of schedule.

"This was really a case of everything going right," says Mindy Maslin, manager of Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders project. "So many people came out…it was a lovely cooperative venture." Maslin serves on the Advisory Board of UC Green. She and Hal Rosner, an arborist with Bartlett Tree Expert Co., held special training sessions on the Penn campus for 90 volunteer team leaders. Philadelphia Green also hired McFarland Landscaping to move the trees to the planting sites. Many local businesses, especially University City Associates realtors, provided additional funding and donated food and other supplies for the volunteers.

Esaul Sanchez, director of UC Green, said planning for the project began in the summer of 2000. The Greenway is part of a grand scheme to beautify University City. Walnut Street will be one of several thoroughfares that "frame" the neighborhood, attracting visitors and inspiring additional planting on other streets.

"Already on the 4600 block, the residents have taken the initiative to plant pansies around the trees," Sanchez notes. "Hopefully, many more people will want trees for their blocks, too. The end result," he predicts, "will be a community that is cleaner, safer, more beautiful and that feels like a 'garden village.'"

– Jane Carroll

Volunteers check the position of a tree before removing the burlap covering.

A Poem from the Kids Grow Expo, Held May 8 - 10

I like to eat apples from trees,
but the flowers attract lots of bees.
I swat them away
but they choose to stay.
I get stung from my nose to
my knees.

– Christina, Grade 5
Heston School, Philadelphia

SAVE THE DATE

2001 Philadelphia Harvest Show

September 15 & 16, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park
Admission: Adults – $6,
children under 12 – $2

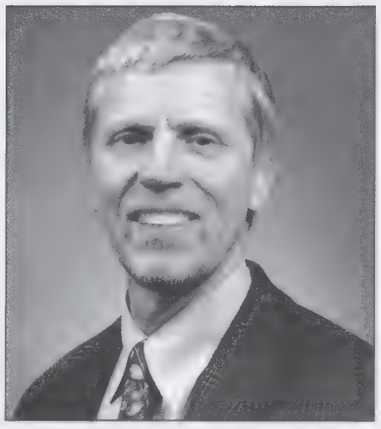
PHS's Blaine Bonham Honored

For the past few years, the GreenSpace Alliance has presented its Award of Excellence to an individual who exhibits exemplary leadership in the preservation and creation of open space. This year's award went to PHS executive vice president J. Blaine Bonham, Jr., who was recognized for his efforts to improve the quality of open space in Philadelphia through the greening initiatives of the Society's Philadelphia Green program.

The GreenSpace Alliance is a coalition of organizations committed to protecting farmland and open space in the five-county metropolitan area of southeastern Pennsylvania. It is a project of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, a 30-year-old nonprofit that focuses on water and land use issues throughout the state.

While past honorees have included political leadership from Chester, Montgomery, and Bucks counties, this is the first time that the award has been city-focused. "Open space issues are just as critical in the urban context as in the suburbs or rural areas," said GreenSpace Alliance director Mark McQuigan, who cited PHS and Blaine's work on the problem of urban vacant land. "PHS has helped City government to rethink the use and management of these neglected places," he noted. "And all of this effort is now finally coming to fruition through the City's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI)."

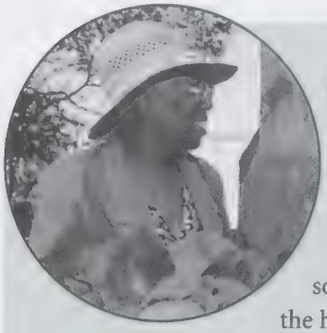
Over 100 people attended the Alliance's Annual Meeting on June 25th, held on Temple University's main campus and co-sponsored by Temple's Sustainable Communities project. Phil Wallace, chair of the Alliance, presented the award to Blaine. One of the featured speakers was Pat Smith, director of NTI, who spoke about the City's plans and its collaboration with PHS.



J. Blaine Bonham, Jr.
PHS executive vice president

"It was a tremendous honor to be recognized for our accomplishments," said Blaine, who in 1974 helped launch the program that would become Philadelphia Green. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the City and exploring ways to solve the crippling problem of urban vacant land. It's a vital part of what needs to be done to ensure positive change in Philadelphia."

– John Gannon



Naomi Adams

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SOMAD Community Gardeners

When the City of Philadelphia tore down the abandoned house next door to Naomi Adams, leaving an unsightly empty lot, she knew something had to be done. She enlisted the help of a neighborhood minister, Rev. Larry Falcon, who collected some fencing material to enclose the lot. Then Doris, Rev. Falcon and several other members of their neighborhood organization, South of Market Against Drugs (SOMAD), started a community garden with help from Philadelphia Green.

Eleven years later the SOMAD garden, located on South 43rd Street in West Philadelphia, is still going strong. At this time of year, Naomi, 83, and her seven fellow gardeners are gearing up for their annual fall ritual—entering the PHS Harvest Show. They're growing all their favorites: a bounty of vegetables including collard greens, turnips, kale, okra, broccoli, squash, and tomatoes, as well as show-stopping flowers like calla lily and climbing roses.

About two weeks before the Harvest Show, the SOMAD members take a walk through the garden, picking out the best-looking plants from each of the eight individual plots, looking for blue-ribbon entries. The day before the Show, they make final selections and water the garden thoroughly so the plants will look their best when cut. Then at harvest time, they carefully place the plants directly into containers of water and bring them straight to the Horticulture Center. Naomi keeps a list of every plant along with the name of the gardener.

Naomi first entered the Harvest Show on her own after the garden's very first season. Her friend, Betty Richardson, who gardens in South Philadelphia, had talked her into it. "I'll never forget it," Naomi remembers. "I didn't get things there on time, I didn't bring enough different plants. It was very disheartening." Then West Philly Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell helped Naomi learn the ropes and gently pushed her to try again. Now, as a group, the SOMAD gardeners are big prize-winners. One year they walked away with a total of 18 ribbons.

Naomi and her fellow gardeners hope to bring home another crop of prizes from this year's Show. But the garden offers its own rewards. "It's such a peaceful place," she remarks, "especially when it's in full bloom and the birds are singing. It brings a lot of satisfaction—with or without the ribbons."

– Jane Carroll

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Annual Regional Urban Greening Forum: Community Tree Farming

Friday, July 13, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Walter Biddle Saul High School
7100 Henry Avenue, Philadelphia

This conference will explore community tree farming in the greater Philadelphia region as a way to promote urban forest restoration, enhance urban green space, and encourage tree stewardship by residents. There will also be a pre-conference reception on Thursday evening, July 12, at the Morris Arboretum. To register or for more information, please contact Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844 or *mmaslin@pennhort.org*

Full Moon Wissahickon Walk

Friday, August 3, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

A family-friendly stroll through the Wissahickon Gorge in Fairmount Park, looking at trees and birds in the light of the full moon. Bring a chair or blanket and a dessert to enjoy after the walk. For more information, please contact Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844 or *mmaslin@pennhort.org*

Invasive Plants Conference

August 14 – 15
Swarthmore College

Invasive plants are serious threats to biological diversity and the health of our natural resources. This conference brings together experts from the front lines of research, the green industry, policy, funding, education, and hands-on management who are working to solve this problem. For information, please contact the Morris Arboretum, (215) 247-5777 ext. 149.

Volunteer at the Harvest Show

Harvest Hoedown
Saturday & Sunday, September 15 – 16
Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park

Help make the 2001 Philadelphia Harvest Show another bountiful Show. If you'd like to work behind the scenes this year and will be available Wednesday through Sunday, September 12 – 16, please fill out this form and mail to: PHS, 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495, Attn: Betty Greene, or e-mail *bgreene@pennhort.org*

Sign me up to help at the Harvest Show!

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Clerks

Friday, 9/14	9:30 am –12:30 pm	☐

Setup

Wednesday, 9/12	9 am – 4 pm	☐
Thursday, 9/13	9 am – 4 pm	☐

Horticulture Information Booth

Friday, 9/14	4 – 7 pm	☐
Saturday, 9/15	10 am – 5 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	10 am – 5 pm	☐

Entry Aides

Thursday, 9/13	3:15 – 7 pm	☐
Friday, 9/14	7:15 – 10 am	☐

Information Aides
Welcome and direct visitors

Friday, 9/14	3:30 – 5 pm	☐
	5:15 – 7:15 pm	☐
Saturday, 9/15	9:30 am – noon	☐
	noon – 2:30 pm	☐
	2:30 – 5 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	9:30 – noon	☐
	noon – 2:30 pm	☐
	2:30 – 5 pm	☐

Youth Section Aides

Thursday, 9/13	2 – 4:30 pm	☐
	4:30 – 7 pm	☐
Friday, 9/14	7:30 – 10:30 am	☐
Saturday, 9/15	11 am – 3 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	11 am – 3 pm	☐

Children's Activities

Saturday, 9/15	11 am – 4 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	11 am – 4 pm	☐

Veggie Races

Saturday, 9/15	9 am – 5 pm	☐
Sunday, 9/16	9 am – 5 pm	☐

Harvest Shoppe

Wednesday, 9/12 9:30 am – 6:30 pm ☐
through Sunday, 9/16
(3-hour shifts for set-up, sales/service, and takedown)

PG News

Local Gardeners Share the Harvest

Many area shelters need nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables. Share the Harvest—a summer volunteer gardening program organized by Philabundance—provides a way for local gardeners to help out by sowing an extra row in their home or community gardens to help fight hunger in our region. Gardeners interested in participating should call Philabundance at (215) 339-0900 or visit their website at *www.philabundance.org*

Volunteers Spring for Konrad Square

On Saturday May 12th, the Friends of Konrad Square planted thousands of new plants in their park at Dauphin and Sepviva Streets in Fishtown, creating a lush and colorful island in the park's newly created central feature. The project was part of "Spring Into Your Park," a citywide parks clean-up and celebration organized by Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and the community.

Photo by Abigail Bobrow

Volunteers at work in Konrad Square.

The central plantings accent two monuments informing visitors that the park was created in memory of Joseph Konrad, a neighborhood fireman killed in the line of duty. An intricate walkway composed of hundreds of paving stones leads through an oasis of perennials, woody plants and ivy. The planting, mulching and watering were completed in one day, quickly transforming the square. One volunteer stood back grinning at the finished product. "This is it!" he exclaimed. "For years we had a vision and now we're seeing it as a reality. It's amazing."

– Jeff Tober

Save the Date

The annual "Fall for Your Park" citywide cleanup and celebration of neighborhood parks will be held on Saturday, September 29.

Reminder: Neighborhood Park Groups

Friends Groups of neighborhood parks affiliated with the Department of Recreation: please watch your mailboxes for Development Grant applications for 2002, which will be mailed in July. Small Grant applications will be sent in August. For more information, please call Paul Bonfanti, resource center coordinator, at (215) 988-8878.

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The 2001 Philadelphia Harvest Show

A Harvest Hoedown!

Visitors admire a "Bounty by the Basket" entry at the 2000 Harvest Show.

Grab your cowboy hat and kick up your boots for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Harvest Show on **September 15 and 16** at the Horticulture Center in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park. This year's theme is "Harvest Hoedown!" PHS's annual Harvest Show includes over 2,100 stunning floral and harvest displays, all competing for blue ribbons. [*Note: Individual gardeners, groups and clubs are all invited to compete. For entry information call the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society at (215) 988-8800 or visit the PHS website:* www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org]

The Philadelphia Harvest Show

Saturday, September 15 & Sunday, September 16

10 am – 5 pm

Horticulture Center
Horticulture Drive • Fairmount Park
(*map on back cover*)

Admission: $6 for adults, $2 for children

Opening Celebration

Please join us at the Horticulture Center for the Opening Celebration on Friday evening, **September 14, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**. This is a free, informal gathering of community gardeners and PHS members. Gardeners may bring guests for $5 each.

For the Kids

As always, there will be plenty of fun for children, including **arts and crafts** and the second annual **veggie races**. Children's author and artist **Saxton Freymann** will appear both Saturday and Sunday to sign copies of his book, *Gus & Button*.

Shopping & Special Events

Visit the **Harvest Marketplace**, where you will find a wide variety of garden gifts and accessories. Also, look for the PHS tent and the Harvest Shoppe for specially priced PHS items. Harvest Show visitors can also gather a bounty of gardening information at **free lectures, demonstrations**, and **educational exhibits**.

Just a short walk from the Horticulture Center at the **Japanese House**, you can enjoy an exhibit of Ikebana, the ancient Japanese art of flower arranging. Harvest Show visitors are also invited to enjoy **tours of historic 18th and 19th century mansions** located in Fairmount Park. [*Note: Reservations are required for mansion tours; please call 215-684-7926.*]

DIRECTIONS

Public Transportation

Take SEPTA Route #38 bus to Belmont and Montgomery. Walk from Montgomery to North Horticulture Drive and go through the gates to the Horticulture Center.

By Car

Via I-76 West: Exit at Montgomery Drive; turn left onto Montgomery Drive; take first left onto Horticultural Drive and follow the signs.

Via I-76 East: Exit at Montgomery Drive; turn right onto Montgomery Drive; take first left onto Horticultural Drive and follow the signs.

Via Belmont Avenue from Western Suburbs: Belmont Avenue to Montgomery Drive; take a left onto Montgomery Drive; first right onto Horticultural Drive and follow the signs.

Neighborhood Gardens Association

Still Growing after 15 Years

The Neighborhood Gardens Association/ A Philadelphia Land Trust (NGA) celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. To commemorate the milestone, community gardeners, donors and board members toured NGA gardens this June, including Glenwood Green Acres in North Philadelphia and Warrington Garden in West Philadelphia. "It is important to take the time to celebrate the efforts of the gardeners along with NGA," says executive director Terry Mushovic. "They have worked very hard to turn vacant lots into productive and pleasant places in their neighborhoods."

Incorporated in 1986, NGA is a nonprofit corporation that works to preserve existing community-managed gardens and open spaces in Philadelphia. The organization protects gardens from development by negotiating with the City to acquire publicly owned property, purchasing land from private owners, or negotiating long-term leases. NGA currently holds title to 22 vegetable, flower and sitting gardens around the city, as well as long-term leases for two others.

All of the gardens serve a common purpose—improving the quality of life in their communities. "The garden is a green and living oasis in the middle of a congested city neighborhood. It's our escape, just a couple of blocks from where we live," says Fred Snyder, garden coordinator for the Southwark/Queen Village Community Garden (which celebrates its own 25th anniversary on September 29).

This year NGA began working with the Mayor's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, researching land ownership for prospective gardeners and explaining the options for creating and preserving neighborhood gardens. The organization also continues to work closely with its major partners, Philadelphia Green and the Penn State Urban Gardening Program.

Glenwood Green Acres gardener James Taylor

"It's a natural partnership that provides invaluable assistance to residents who want to make their neighborhoods greener and better places to live," says Mushovic. For more information about NGA, please call (215) 988-8797, or check out their website at *www.ngalandtrust.org*

– Shannon McWeeney
NGA staff

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Sharon Turner

For 25 years, Sharon Turner has been an enthusiastic supporter of Philadelphia Green and PHS, as well as a super volunteer. A member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board since its founding in 1980, she was its second chair. (Her mother, Willie Mae Bullock, was the first.) Sharon currently serves on the nominating committee for the Board—a job that she describes as "the easiest." "People see the benefits that Philadelphia Green and PHS have brought to the City," she explains. "All I have to do is mention Philadelphia Green, and people are eager to get involved."

Sharon's involvement with Philadelphia Green began in the mid-1970s, when she sought help in starting the Hope Springs community garden on 20th Street in North Philadelphia. When the City tore down an abandoned house on the block, neighbors quickly came together. "Someone in the neighborhood had heard about Philadelphia Green, which back then, was just getting started," Sharon recalls. With several vacant lots on the block now, keeping the gardens intact has proven a challenge. But Sharon is continually inspired by the resilience of her community. "Even on a devastated block, the neighbors try to preserve of bit of beauty with a window box or a container filled with flowers."

"Working with Philadelphia Green has been a great experience for me.... It takes you out into the community.

Sharon serves on the PHS Council, and she is community gardens vice-chair for the herb classes at the Harvest Show. She also volunteers at the Philadelphia Flower Show, leading special tours for the funders and supporters of Philadelphia Green. "It's good for them to see the faces behind the gardens," she notes.

"Working with Philadelphia Green has been a great experience for me," says Sharon, a registered nurse. "It takes you out into the community. I've met marvelous people from neighborhoods that I didn't even know existed before. People who share a commitment to preserving their neighborhoods, getting their hands dirty, and watching things grow. Philadelphia Green makes good use of the word 'community'."

– Jane Carroll

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Fall for Your Park*
  Saturday, September 29

Join your neighbors for the annual citywide cleanup and celebration of Philadelphia's neighborhood parks. For more information, please contact Paul Bonfanti at (215) 988-8878 or *pbonfanti@pennhort.org*

- *Tree Tenders Teacher Fall Training*
  Two Tuesdays: October 23 and 30, 4 – 7 pm, and Saturday, October 27, 10 am – 1 pm

Get schools in your neighborhood or teachers in your school involved as Tree Tender Teachers! The Training is free and comes complete with materials—and pizza! For information, contact Mindy Maslin at (215) 988-8844 or *mmaslin@pennhort.org*

Celebrating Urban Trees

*At this year's Regional Urban Greening Forum, which focused on community tree farming, PHS staff member David Michael (left) discussed under-utilized native trees that are well-suited to urban conditions, such as the pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), commonly found in the Pine Barrens of Southern New Jersey. The July 13 conference was held at W. B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences in Philadelphia.*

Phase II in American Street Empowerment Zone

In April 2000, Philadelphia Green agreed to manage a vacant land stabilization program in North Philadelphia's American Street Empowerment Zone (ASEZ). In its first year, 20 sites—four acres of abandoned, debris-filled lots—were cleaned and stabilized with a basic landscape treatment of grass and tree plantings. In the second year of the project, another five acres of derelict land has been "cleaned and greened." "The clean and green strategy will serve as a model for the City as it implements Mayor Street's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative," notes PHS executive vice-president J. Blaine Bonham, Jr.

Four community-based organizations from neighborhoods within the Empowerment Zone are collaborating with PG to improve the appearance of these lots—Women's Community Revitalization Project, Norris Square Civic Association, Kensington South Community Development Corporation, and Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha. For the short term, Philadelphia Green has advised these organizations on proper maintenance practices for the lots, and they in turn solicited bids from landscape contractors to perform the work for at least one year. The task now is to develop long-term maintenance strategies for the newly green landscapes.

PG staff member Margaret Funderburg notes that resident participation is crucial to the long-term success of the project. In the Norris Square neighborhood, the Norris Square Civic Association has hired a local resident to work with the community on tree care and pruning practices on their Empowerment Zone lots. "It's still early on," Margaret says, "but this could develop into a viable way of involving community members in the project."

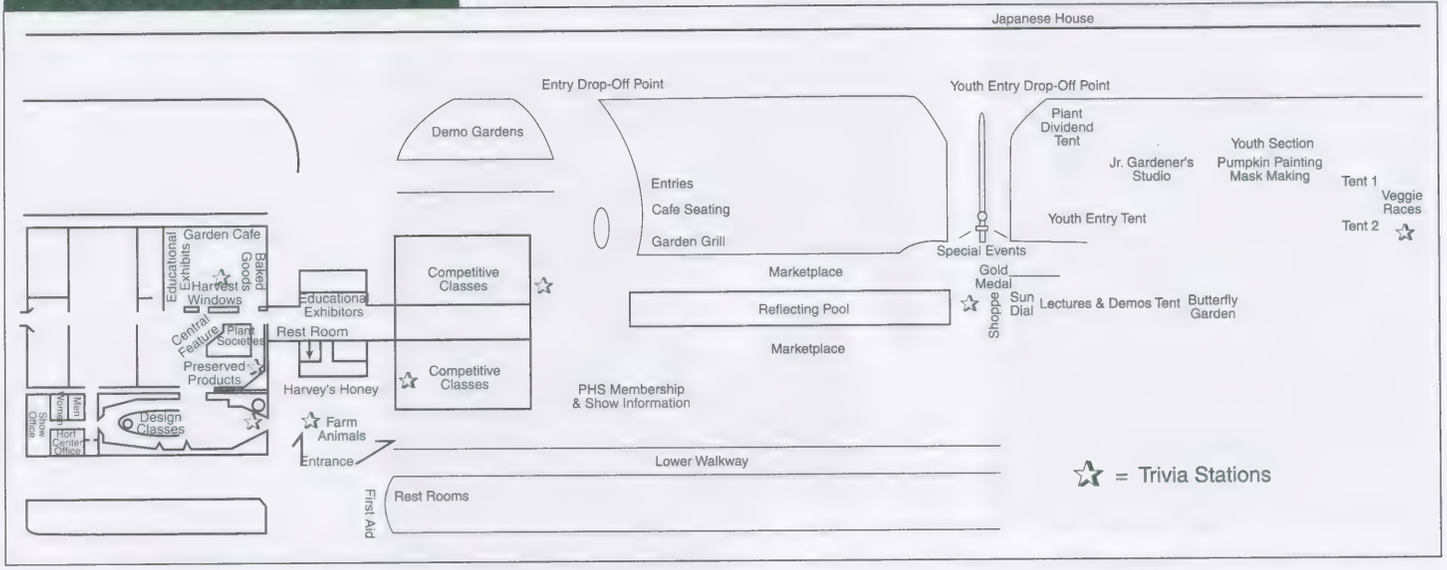
In another effort to engage the community, Philadelphia Green and the CDCs are organizing a mass planting of bulbs and perennials on lots throughout the Empowerment Zone, which will take place on Saturday, October 13th. Stay tuned for ongoing developments.

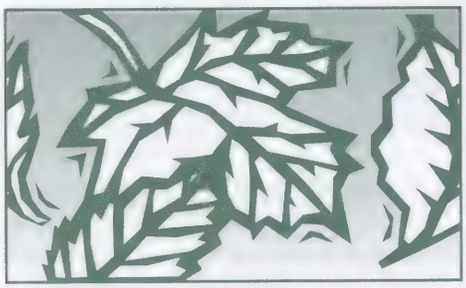
– John Gannon

A "clean and green" lot at the corner of North 5th & West Norris Streets.

HARVEST SHOW MAP

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16, 2001





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Philadelphia Green Receives National Award

Philadelphia Green has received a national award from the Urban Parks Institute, a program of the New York-based organization, Project for Public Spaces. The "Catalyst Award" (shared by Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago) recognizes "a person or organization that has successfully evolved a park or other public space to meet the needs of today's users, by involving the community, building stewardship, and making a park the setting for diverse community activities."

Philadelphia Green was singled out for its Parks Revitalization Project, which was praised for creating strong partnerships among community residents, City government, and nonprofit organizations. According to Mike Groman, director of Philadelphia Green, it is these partnerships that make the difference. "We've learned that putting the right resources into the hands of willing volunteers has a tremendous impact on the success of these projects," he remarks. The Parks Revitalization Project works with more than 40 neighborhood park groups throughout Philadelphia.

The Catalyst Award was one of five "Great Parks/Great Cities Awards" presented at the Urban Parks Institute's annual conference in July. The Awards celebrate the role that urban parks play in revitalizing North American cities. As Urban Parks Institute director Kathy Madden notes, "An active, well-functioning park can jumpstart the comeback of a community."

John Gannon

About 800 volunteers participated in the annual "Fall for Your Park," held on Saturday, September 29. The volunteer maintenance day, hosted by Philadelphia Green, took place at 39 neighborhood parks throughout the City. Above, a young volunteer takes a break at Cliveden Park in Germantown.

PHS Donates Harvest Show Revenue to Disaster Relief

In the wake of the tragic events of September 11, the 2001 Harvest Show went ahead as planned, bringing comfort to exhibitors, visitors, PHS staff, and, especially, to the many children who thoroughly enjoyed the weekend's activities. Following the Show, PHS donated the net gate receipts to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Growing Your Future

The third annual "Growing Your Future" event was held on Wednesday, October 3 at the Horticultural Center in Fairmount Park. Two-hundred and twenty area eighth-grade students, along with 30 high-school mentors from Saul and Lincoln high schools, explored career options in the environmental and horticultural fields. Philadelphia Green co-sponsored the event along with Penn State Cooperative Extension, the Fairmount Park Commission, Bartlett Tree Experts, PA Urban & Community Forestry Council, the National Tree Trust, the USDA Forest Service, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, and the School District of Philadelphia.

Free Lecture Series

Tropical Botany and Ecology
Six Mondays, January 21 – February 25, 7:00 pm, PHS Auditorium

PHS and the Wagner Free Institute of Science will co-sponsor a six-week course, *Tropical Botany and Ecology*, which is free and open to the public. Classes will be held in the PHS Auditorium. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required. Registered students will receive a syllabus and reading list as part of their registration acknowledgement. **To register, please call (215) 763-6529, ext. 23.**

Professor Karen Snetselaar will provide an introduction to the diversity and ecological role of plants in tropical ecosystems, with an emphasis on the New World tropics. Topics will include characteristics of different types of tropical forests, adaptations of specific tropical plants, and interactions between tropical plants and animals. The class will also look at the implications of human exploitation of tropical rain forests and current conservation practices.

Karen Snetselaar is associate professor of biology at St. Joseph's University and professor of biology at the Wagner Free Institute of Science in Philadelphia. She specializes in botany and plant diseases.

25 Years in a Garden

The Southwark/Queen Village Community Garden, located on Christian Street between 3rd & 4th Streets, held a silver jubilee celebration in September to mark 25 years of growing together. Over the years, a handful of intrepid gardeners enlisted the help of local politicians to keep their parcel of land away from developers. Their persistence paid off, and in 1991—eight years after the land was put up for sale by the federal government—it was deeded to the City.

John Gouker

Gardener Jed Campbell tends to his plot at the Southwark/Queen Village garden.

Started in 1976 by members of the Queen Village Neighbors Association, with help from Philadelphia Green, the garden was one of the original Penn State Cooperative Extension Demonstration Gardens. It now has 65 plots tended by 74 members. The gardeners come "from all walks of life, representing a variety of social, economic and ethnic diversities," according to Audrey Lisowski, who joined two years ago. "Yet, when we're in the garden," she adds, "we're all just gardeners sharing together."

Spotlight on PHS Annual Award Winners

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is pleased to announce the 2001 Certificates of Merit. Among the recipients are Lily Yeh, of the Village of Arts and Humanities in North Philadelphia, and the New Kensington Community Development Corporation. The awards will be formally presented at the PHS Annual Meeting on November 13.

New Kensington Community Development Corporation became a pioneer in neighborhood-based vacant land management when it partnered with Philadelphia Green in 1995. Since then, New Kensington CDC has reduced its original inventory of more than 1,100 vacant and blighted lots by nearly 60 percent. The organization also helped create Greensgrow, the City's first hydroponic urban farm, on a former industrial site. With strong leaders like Sandy Salzman and Paul Malvey, dedicated staff and Board members and committed residents, New Kensington CDC continues to be a local and national leader in vacant land management.

Lily Yeh is founder and director of The Village of Arts and Humanities, which she started in a distressed North Philadelphia community 15 years ago. With a vision "to build a community through innovative arts, education, social and economic development, and construction programs," Lily and her partners started in 1986 with a sculpture garden and wall mural on an abandoned lot. Since then, Lily has led the Village in its impressive growth as an organization (from two staff members to its present 15), in the creation of parks, garden spaces, and a tree farm, as well as a wide range of youth and adult programs.

Toby Dodson

2001 City Gardens Contest Winners

Below are the winners in the community gardening categories of the 2001 City Gardens Contest. Congratulations to everyone who entered!

Community Children's Gardens

1st	5537 Baltimore Avenue, Tracy Richards & kids
2nd	El Batey, 169-171 West Susquehanna Avenue
2nd	Raices, 2213-15 N. 2nd Street
3rd	2600 East Dauphin Street, Regina Clark, Mary Thomas & kids
3rd	Rainbow Park for Wee Green Thumbs, Sister Grace West & kids

School Gardens

1st	Taggart School, 4th & Porter Streets
2nd	Vare Middle School, 24th & Jackson Streets
3rd	Hackett Elementary School, East York & Trenton Avenue

Children's Tree Lab

HM	J. H. Brown School, Stanwood Street & Frankford Avenue

First Year Community Garden & Recipient of Eugene E. Smith Memorial Awards

1st	"Lots of Love" Garden, 600 block of Budd Street
2nd	Broad & South Street Community Arts Garden & Tree Farm
3rd	Bethesda Project, 1510-12 Bainbridge Street
HM	6445 Greene Street, Linda Eggers & neighbors

Toby Dodson

Prize-winning community garden at 55th & Baltimore Avenue.

Community Combination Gardens (Small)

1st	Fitzwater 2000 Community Garden, 2042-44 Fitzwater Street
2nd	3418 Wallace Street, Janyce Hughes & neighbors
3rd	Monastery Community Garden, Kitchens Lane

Community Combination Gardens (Mid-size)

1st	55th Street & Baltimore Avenue, Marion Bush & neighbors
2nd	United Community Garden, 619 Catharine Street
2nd	South Street Community Garden, 837-39 South Street
3rd	Belgrade Garden, 1401 Frankford Avenue

Community Combination Gardens (Large)

1st	Las Parcelas, 2238-64 North Palethorpe Street
2nd	Aspen Farms, 49th & Aspen Streets
2nd	Ella Francis Garden, 52nd Street & Parkside Avenue
3rd	Bel Arbor Community Garden & Tree Farm, 1020-40 Kimball Street
HM	Liberty Lands, 900 block of North 3rd Street
HM	Warrington Community Garden, 4700 block of Warrington Avenue

Community Combination Gardens (Very large)

1st	The Spring Garden, 1800 block of Wallace Street
2nd	Awbury Community Garden, Duvall & Ardleigh Streets
3rd	Schuylkill River Park Community Garden, 25th & Spruce Streets

Community Flower Gardens (Small)

1st Demonstration Garden, Horticulture Center
2nd 2600 East Dauphin Street, Regina Clark, Mary Thomas & neighbors
3rd 27th Street & Montgomery Avenue, Goldie Bowden, Louise Hinton & neighbors
3rd Stillman & Parrish Streets, Jane Gourley & neighbors
HM St. Simon's Church, 22nd & Reed Streets

Community Flower Gardens (Mid-size)

1st 1150 South 13th Street, Terry Bremer, Tom Baier & neighbors
2nd Friends of Wyndmoor Train Station, Willow Grove Avenue & Wyndmoor Street
3rd Ralston House, 3615 Chestnut Street
HM Jardin de Paz, 2201-03 North 2nd Street

Community Flower Gardens (Large)

1st 40th Street & Woodland Avenue, Michelle Murphy & neighbors
1st Unitarian Universalist House, 224 W. Tulpehocken Street
2nd Pennsylvania Hospital Physic Garden, 8th & Pine Streets
2nd 7101 Stenton Avenue, Lewis Rella & neighbors
3rd Tucker House, 10th & Wallace Streets
HM Germantown Home, Germantown Avenue & Sedgewick Street

Garden Blocks

1st 1700 block of Edgley Street, Dollie Pinckney & neighbors
1st Unit block, North Dewey Street, Phyllis Wade & neighbors
2nd 3700 block of North 15th Street, Minnie Radcliffe & neighbors
3rd 2100 block of Wharton Street, Theresa McCormick & neighbors
HM 1700 block of Lombard Street, Erica Bartlett & neighbors
HM 1500 block of East Berks Street, Paula Hudy & neighbors

Greenest Block in Town

1st 7000 block of Ardleigh Street, Gene Russell & neighbors
2nd English Village, 2100 block of St. James Place, Heather & Michael Ascher & neighbors
3rd 2200 block of Emerald Street, Maria Ramos & neighbors
HM A to F Norris Court, Betty Johnson & neighbors

Toby Dodson

Demonstration garden at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park.

HM 3500 block of North 24th Street, Bennie Mae Knight & neighbors
HM 6200 block of Ellsworth Street, John Steptoe & neighbors

Community Parks

1st Friends of Mario Lanza Park, 200 block of Catharine Street
2nd Gorgas Park, 6300 Ridge Avenue
3rd Cianfrani Park, 8th & Fitzwater Streets
3rd Friends of Konrad Square, Tulip and Dauphin Streets
HM Norris Square Park, Diamond & Hancock Streets

Community Vegetable Gardens (Small)

1st The Southerners, 43rd & Ogden Streets
1st 1933-1943 North 31st Street, Maron-(sp??) Faison & neighbors
1st 15th & Butler Streets, Minnie Radcliffe & neighbors
2nd 1204-13 South 26th Street, Cynthia Anderson & neighbors
3rd 28th & Cambria Streets, Adrienne Izzard & neighbors
HM Seedy Acres, 916-922 North Leithgow Street

Community Vegetable Gardens (Mid-size)

1st 3rd to 4th & Christian Streets, Fred Snyder & neighbors
3rd Venango Street Community Vegetable Garden, 1925-35 West Venango Street

Community Vegetable Gardens (Large)

1st Glenwood Green Acres, 18th Street & Glenwood Avenue
2nd 25th & Tasker Streets, Josephine Jackson & neighbors

HM = Honorable Mention

UPCOMING EVENTS

Revitalizing the North Delaware Riverfront

Friday, November 2, 7:45 – 10:30 am
Top of the Tower, Bell Atlantic Building, 1717 Arch Street, Philadelphia, 50th Floor

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council will sponsor a public forum on Revitalizing the North Delaware Riverfront, including the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia to Bucks County. For more information, please contact Avery DeLeon at (215) 563-0250 ext. 114; or *adeleon@pecphila.org*

Tree Planting to Commemorate Victims of September 11 Tragedy

Saturday, November 10, 9 am

University City Green seeks volunteers to help plant 150 trees in memory of those who lost their lives in the tragic events of September 11th . Trees will be planted along Chestnut Street, from 31st to 40th Streets in University City. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Esaul Sanchez at 215-573-4684 or *sancheze@pobox.upenn.edu*

Free Composting Workshop

Monday, November 12, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
PHS Auditorium, 20th & Arch Streets

All are welcome to attend. After completing the workshop, Philadelphia residents can purchase a compost bin for $10. For more information, please contact Mindy Maslin at (215) 988-8844 or *mmaslin@pennhort.org*

Third Annual Future of Our Food and Farms Summit

"Spreading the Bounty, Safeguarding the Future"
November 29 and 30, 2001
Renaissance Hotel Philadelphia Airport

The Secretaries of Agriculture from four states will talk about their visions for the future of food and farming in the Mid-Atlantic region. For more information, please contact Meredith Stone at the Farmers' Market Trust, (215) 568-0830 ext.10; e-mail *fmtrust@libertynet.org*; or visit *www.foodfarm.org*

The Ecological Enhancement of Urban/Suburban Green Space

Thursday, November 29, 2001, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
8480 Hagy's Mill Road, Philadelphia

For more information or to register, please contact Dennis Burton at (215) 482-7300, ext 118, or *dburton@schuylkillcenter.org*

Fifth Annual Party for the Parks

Thursday, December 6 at City Hall
Watch for your invitation in the mail.

Tree Tender Group Gets Help for Maintenance Project

This summer, the East Falls Tree Tenders undertook a large-scale tree maintenance project along Midvale Avenue, the main thoroughfare through their northwest Philadelphia neighborhood. The group, led by Cynthia Kishinchand, formed a partnership with Giroud Tree Service. The company worked on about 67 street trees over three days, pruning branches, treating diseased trees and grinding tree stumps.

Giroud contributed one day's labor free of charge as part of its Tree Preservation Program, which offers free services to local parks, historical sites and other non-profit organizations that are working to preserve irreplaceable trees. To meet the remaining costs of the project, the East Falls group received project support from Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders, matching it with proceeds from the East Falls Community Council Festival and contributions from the East Falls Business Association.

"It's important for Tree Tender groups to know that help is available for maintenance projects like this, which are such an important part of caring for our City's trees," says Mindy Maslin, manager of the Tree Tenders project. Giroud communications director Cynthia Giroud says the company welcomes applications from other Tree Tender groups. For information about the Giroud Tree Preservation Program, please call (215) 682-7704, or visit their website at *www.giroudtree.com*

Cynthia Kishinchand

Giroud arborist Jeff Pyle discusses tree maintenance with East Falls volunteers.

VOLUNTEER AT THE 2002 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Join us at the Pennsylvania Convention Center as a behind-the-scenes volunteer from March 3–10, 2002. If you would like to help, check the box(es) that interest you and return this form to PHS.

- ☐ **Exhibitor Aides:** Help exhibitors transport plants from D Hall to the freight elevator and entry area. Entry level job.
- ☐ **Runner:** Carry cards for corrections to and from typing table. Entry level job.
- ☐ **Recorder:** Log information for a plant's entry into the Show. Requires attention to detail and an ability to keep calm under pressure.
- ☐ **Infonet:** Welcome and direct visitors to the Flower Show, help with the phone bank, serve as Show floor or Concourse ambassador, or work an information booth.

Name _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Phone (day) _____

E-mail address _____

Please return this coupon to: Betty Greene, PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495, by January 7, 2002. Call (215) 988-8826; or e-mail: *bgreene@pennhort.org.* We will contact you with more information.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Philadelphia Green Hosts Daffodil Day

On Saturday, October 27th hundreds of volunteers fanned out across the American Street Empowerment Zone in North Philadelphia, planting 10,000 daffodil bulbs on 16 vacant lots. The 10,000 bulbs were generously donated by the Van Bourgondien Bulb Company.

Philadelphia Green works with four community organizations in the area to clean, improve, and maintain vacant land. The groups include the Women's Community Revitalization Project, Norris Square Civic Association, Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council, and Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha. In the past two years, over 40 sites have been cleaned and planted with grass and trees, part of a three-year project funded by the Philadelphia Empowerment Zone.

"Community-building was one of the primary goals of the day," explains PG staffer Margaret Funderburg, who coordinated the bulb planting. "And it was a big success. Lots of new people came out who had not been involved before. Many groups kept working even after the bulbs were planted." Funderburg chose daffodils because of the tough conditions on city lots. "Daffodils are very hardy and pest resistant," she notes. "If all goes well, they'll be there for years." *– Jane Carroll*

The Pleasures of the Garden

A Preview of the 2002 Philadelphia Flower Show

The 2002 Philadelphia Flower Show, *The Pleasures of the Garden,* runs from March 3 through 10, 2002 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The Show will include exhibits by more than 60 of the nation's top landscape-design firms, florists and educational organizations. PHS will once again mount special displays highlighting current projects of the Philadelphia Green program, as well as one for the Gold Medal Plant Award program.

This year's Central Feature exhibits will celebrate the romantic gardens of the Victorian era. Visitors will enter the Show through a garden "portal" inspired by Victorian architecture. Award winning exhibitor J. Cugliotta Landscape/Nursery, Inc. will recall the elegant sophistication of this romantic era with an elaborate representation of a Victorian "dream" house, surrounded by theme gardens celebrating each of the five senses—hearing, sight, smell, taste and touch.

In the American Institute of Floral Design exhibit, brightly colored arrangements of

continued on page 3

SAVE THE DATE: Philadelphia Green Brunch at the 2002 Flower Show

All Philadelphia Green gardeners and volunteers are invited to the annual brunch on Sunday, March 10th at 11:30 am. Don't miss this opportunity to see your fellow gardeners and PG volunteers and tour this year's Show. Your Brunch ticket ($28) includes Flower Show admission. Invitations will be mailed at the end of January.

A Tree Grows in Mifflin Square

PG staffer Jeff Tober takes a break with fifth-grade students from Sharswood and Taggart Elementary Schools in South Philadelphia. The students took part in Mifflin Square's "Fall Festival" by planting six large trees—three white pines, a willow oak, bald cypress and a swamp white oak—in the park, located at 6th and Ritner Streets in South Philadelphia. The children will help maintain their "adopted" trees throughout the coming years. The event was organized by The Whitman Council Inc., the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, the National School and Community Corps, and Philadelphia Green.

ATTENTION: Philadelphia Green Community Gardeners

Garden Improvement Grants are available in 2002

Philadelphia Green is offering grants for garden improvements in 2002. The CityWide Improvement Grants are designed to provide technical and material assistance to existing Philadelphia Green gardens. Gardens must be in operation for at least two years.

Garden improvements are defined as anything that would add to the beauty or security of an existing garden, or increase the horticultural skills of gardeners. Requests can include plants (trees, shrubs, and perennials), construction materials, fencing repair, tools, benches, picnic tables, installation of turkey-wire delivery gates, reference books, horticultural classes or PG-sponsored field trips.

The grant application period is from January 1 through April 15, 2002. All applications will be reviewed and evaluated; grants will be awarded based on the activity level of the garden group, the garden's condition, assessment of the garden's needs and the amount of resources available.

To request an application, please call the Philadelphia Green request line at (215) 988-8862. Leave a message with your name, address, zip code, and exact garden address. Please state that you want a CityWide Improvement Grant application.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Hayward Ford

Aspen Farms is one of Philadelphia's most successful and enduring community gardens. Created in 1975 through the Philadelphia Green program, the garden sits on a large lot in West Philadelphia's Mill Creek neighborhood.

Hayward's name has been synonymous with Aspen Farms since the late '70s. He was one of a small group of neighbors who started the garden, and he served as president of the garden club for 16 years. "Hayward is extremely dedicated to this garden; it's part of his being," says Eileen Gallagher, who manages Philadelphia Green's CityWide gardens program. "He's the cheerleader, the coach, and the team all wrapped up in one."

Hayward has a special talent for making connections. Through his friendship with Ann Spirn, former head of the landscape architecture program at the University of Pennsylvania, Aspen Farms formed a fruitful partnership with her students in the late '80s. The students collaborated with the gardeners to create an impressive central design for the garden, including a gazebo, three ponds, a footbridge and a butterfly garden. Their work ended in 1988. "But the design is never complete," says Hayward. "The garden is always evolving." Hayward also reached out to three neighborhood public schools—Salzburger, Martha Washington, and James Rhodes. The schools now have their own outdoor classrooms at Aspen Farms.

Eager to share the garden's story, Hayward often serves as host and guide for the many visitors who come to see this Philadelphia landmark. (Aspen Farms has been featured in *National Geographic* and on *Good Morning America*, and is well known among community gardeners nationwide.)

Hayward is also an active PHS volunteer, serving on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, the PHS Council, the Harvest Show Committee, and the Education Committee. He's also on the board of the Neighborhood Gardens Association.

A former Navy Seal who served in Vietnam, Hayward has been gardening all his life, even during his years in the military. "It's a lot of hard work, but it gives me exercise, social connections, and fresh food," he says. "And when you're sitting in the gazebo at the garden, you don't know you're in Philadelphia. You can transport yourself to any place you want to be."

– Jane Carroll

Winter Wissahickon Walk

Saturday, February 23, 2 – 5 pm

Join The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Fairmount Park for a **family-friendly walk** through the Wissahickon woods, looking at trees in their winter splendor. Activities will include tree identification, natural history interpretation and environmental games. The walk will be followed by **Hot Cider and Storytelling** in historic Thomas Mansion. (Please bring stories to share, with an environmental theme.)

Meet at **Thomas Mansion**, 6245 Wissahickon Avenue (between Walnut Lane and Johnson St.). RSVP by January 20th to Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844. In case of bad weather, activities will be moved indoors.

175 Years and Still Growing!

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2002.

In 1827, women were wearing high-waisted dresses, corsets, wide-brim bonnets, and gloves, while men donned waistcoats and top hats. The nation's first passenger and freight railroad, the Baltimore & Ohio, was incorporated, and slavery was abolished in the state of New York.

That same year in Philadelphia, on November 24, a group of gentleman farmers, botanists and other plant enthusiasts held a meeting to create the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

One hundred and seventy-five years later, PHS is still thriving. "What's really amazing about this organization," says PHS president Jane Pepper, "is not only that it has lasted through two centuries, but that it has been able to accomplish such wonderful things—including the many successes of our Philadelphia Green program."

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
1827
celebrating 175 years

Flower Show 2002 Preview

continued from page 1

cut flowers, branches, and foliage will be presented in an Italian-piazza setting. And the "Peace Garden," created by Flower Show designer and director Ed Lindemann, along with J. Franklin Styer Nurseries and floral designer Jamie Rothstein, "will emphasize one of the most important horticultural pleasures—the sense of continuity and peace that a garden offers us," Lindemann notes.

The Cugliotta display at the 2001 Show

And, as always, visitors can enjoy a variety of activities at the Show, including free lectures, workshops and demonstrations; shopping in the Marketplace; the Barnes & Noble Garden Book Fair; Gardener's Studios in the Main Exhibition Hall; cooking demonstrations; and the elegant Afternoon Tea.

General admission tickets for adults are $24 on Opening Sunday (March 3), $22 weekends and $20 weekdays. Children ages 2 to 12 are $10 (good any day). Advance ticket sales are $18 and Group tickets (20 or more) are $17.50 and are good any day. Advance tickets can be purchased at SEPTA outlets, PNC Banks, participating florists and nurseries and at *www.theflowershow.com*

New Faces on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board

Philadelphia Green extends its heartfelt thanks to those members of the Advisory Board who completed their terms at the end of last year. Their dedication and service is greatly appreciated. At the same time, it is a pleasure to welcome new Board members, whose terms begin in 2002.

Departing Advisory Board members

Runa Bhattacharya
Ingrid Fluellen
Trudy Moore
James Stanley
Marjorie Thornton*

New Advisory Board members

Barry Connors
Walter Cooper
Ed Ellis
Howard Goldstein
Zulma Maldonado
John Nieves
Pat Urveck

*deceased

Volunteer at the 2002 Philadelphia Flower Show

Join us at the Pennsylvania Convention Center as a volunteer from March 3–10, 2002. If you would like to help, check the box(es) that interest you and return this form to PHS.

☐ **Recorder:** Log information for a plant's entry into the Show. Requires attention to detail and an ability to keep calm under pressure.

☐ **Infonet:** Welcome and direct visitors to the Flower Show, help with the phone bank, serve as Show floor or Concourse ambassador, or work an information booth.

☐ **Flower Show Shoppe:** We need you for sales and service, checking and marking, distribution and stock control, cashiers and bagging and shoppe set-up.

Name .....

Address .....

City .....State ..... Zip .....

Phone (day) .....

Email address .....

Please return this coupon to: Betty Greene, PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495 (by January 7 for Recorder and Infonet volunteers, and by January 30 for Shoppe volunteers); call (215) 988-8826; or email *bgreene@pennhort.org*. We will contact you with more information.

Kids Grow Expo Workshops

Teachers and other adults who work with children are invited to two free workshops about the competitive classes in the 2002 Kids Grow Expo:

Tuesday, January 22, 3:45 pm (Horticultural entries)

Tuesday, March 19, 3:45 pm (Artistic Classes and the Junior Flower Show)

For more information, please contact Kay Gramiak at (215) 988-8861 or *kgramiak@pennhort.org*

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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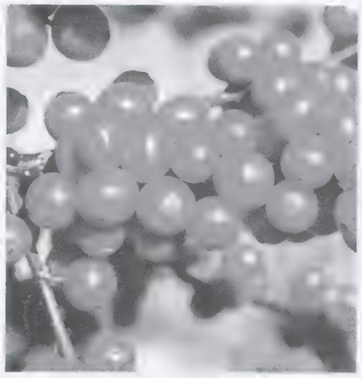
Flower Show Highlights Philadelphia Green

The **Philadelphia Green** exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show will have a new format this year. On a large viewing screen, visitors will see a short video and slide show that will highlight Philadelphia Green's impact throughout the city.

Flossie Narducci, PHS program events manager, who is coordinating the exhibit, says this year's exhibit will help spread the word about Philadelphia Green. "Instead of recreating a garden project, we want to give the public a fuller picture of what Philadelphia Green is, what we do, and how we do it," she says. "We also want to make sure people know their Flower Show tickets help support this important program."

While at the Philadelphia Flower Show, be sure to stop by the other special PHS booths and displays on the main Show floor. Visit the **PHS Flower Show Shoppe**, next to the Central



Gold Medal plant 'Winter Red'® holly

Gold Medal plant Weigela 'Alexandra' Wine and Roses™

Feature exhibits, where you can buy Flower Show mugs and other favorite PHS items, such as tee-shirts, hats, sweat shirts and other garden-related merchandise.

And don't miss the **Gold Medal Plant exhibit,** showcasing winners of PHS Gold Medal Plant Awards. This PHS program recognizes outstanding and underused trees, shrubs, vines and groundcovers that grow well in our area and encourages gardeners to use them. Volunteers from the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association (PLNA) will be on hand at the exhibit to answer questions.

See you at the Show!

Philadelphia FLOWER SHOW

March 3 – 10, 2002

Hours:
Sundays, March 3 and 10, 8 am – 6 pm
Monday – Friday, March 4 – 8, 10 am – 9:30 pm
Saturday, March 9, 8 am – 9:30 pm

Information:
Phone: (215) 988-8899 (recorded information)
Web site: *www.theflowershow.com*

Tickets at the Door:

Adults:	Opening Day, Sunday, March 3: $24
	Monday – Friday, March 4 – 8: $20
	Saturday & Sunday, March 9 – 10: $22
Children	(2 – 12 years): $10 any day

Advance Tickets:
(good any day, available at Sales Outlets*)

Adults:	$18
Children	(2 – 12 years): $10

*Participating PNC branches, AAA Mid-Atlantic offices, ACME Markets, Philadelphia-area Barnes & Noble stores, Clemens Markets, Independence Visitors Center, SEPTA ticket sales outlets, Smith & Hawken stores, and at local garden centers, nurseries and florists. Check availability with individual outlets; service charges may apply. Tickets are also available online at *www.theflowershow.com*

PHS's "Growing Your Future" Program Receives National Award

Growing Your Future, a festive one-day career fair for 200 eighth graders in Philadelphia, has received the National Arbor Day Foundation Education Award for 2002. Created by Mindy Maslin, manager of Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders project, along with Penn State urban forester Julianne Schieffer, the annual event, now in its fourth year is designed to introduce middle-school students to careers in horticultural and environmental fields. Students explore "green" careers at interactive stations staffed by working professionals, and teachers learn about educational resources and service-learning opportunities.

In addition to Philadelphia Green and the Penn State School of Forest Resources, the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council, Penn State Cooperative Extension, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, F. A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co., the Fairmount Park Commission, and the School District of Philadelphia all play significant roles in organizing Growing Your Future.

The award will be presented to Mindy and Julianne at the 30th annual National Arbor Day Awards Banquet on April 27 in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Students enjoy an activity station at the 2001 Growing Your Future.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: John Boyce

Gorgas Park, located in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia, has become one of the shining stars of Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project. The rebirth of this once-neglected park is the result of lots of hard work by dedicated volunteers—members of the Friends of Gorgas Park. The group's president, John Boyce, "has been a positive force in the Roxborough/Wissahickon community for the past 15 years," says fellow volunteer Mike Sweeney.

John's involvement in the community started in the mid-1980s, when he banded together with like-minded friends to battle a graffiti problem in his Wissahickon neighborhood. "I began to realize that the quality of life in the neighborhood was really deteriorating," John explains. "And I thought, 'I'm not a kid anymore, I should do something about it.'" He became involved with the local civic association, Wissahickon Interested Citizens, and took on other projects, including renovation of a small neighborhood park (LaNoce Park), street-tree plantings, and renovations at the local SEPTA station. John was instrumental in getting a mural painted on the outside wall of the train station; the popular mural depicts racers in the annual First Union Bike Race.

Next, John tackled the Kendrick Recreation Center on Ridge Avenue, which had become "a major graffiti-covered eyesore." Along with a small group of volunteers, he helped clean the building, improve lighting and security, and organized cleanups and fundraisers.

Then about five years ago, John was inspired by some "renegade tree pruners" who lived near Gorgas Park and who had taken it upon themselves to give some badly needed attention to neglected park trees. Hearing about Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project, he organized volunteers and helped form the Friends of Gorgas Park.

In partnership with the city's Department of Recreation, the Friends of Gorgas Park have made an enormous impact. Today, Gorgas Park is bustling with new life, including newly planted trees, numerous garden beds and new play equipment for children.

John has also gotten involved with ongoing redevelopment efforts and tree-plantings along the business strip of Ridge Avenue. He says that working to improve his community gives him "a great sense of personal fulfillment." And spring brings the visible rewards of all this hard work. "I always start to get excited at this time of year," says John, "because I know the trees will start to leaf out soon."

– Jane Carroll

Eileen Gallagher Receives Longwood Award

Philadelphia Green project manager Eileen Gallagher has received the Lois Woodward Paul Memorial Award from Longwood Gardens. The award honors graduates of Longwood's Professional Gardener Training program who have established successful careers in horticulture, serve their communities, and promote horticultural education and experiences. It was presented to Eileen at the Professional Gardeners graduation ceremony on February 16.

John Gannon

Eileen Gallagher (right) at work in North Philadelphia

Longwood graduate Eileen Gallagher has been a member of the Philadelphia Green staff since 1987. She manages the CityWide project, which provides support to existing community gardens throughout the city.

The Professional Gardener Training Program Alumni Association established the award in 1985 in honor of Lois Paul, who headed the education department at Longwood Gardens for many years.

New Kensington Open Space Management Program Video Available

In 1995, Philadelphia Green and the New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC) formed a partnership to develop an open space management program for the New Kensington neighborhood. The program, managed by NKCDC, is designed to reduce the negative impact of vacant land on neighborhood stability and redevelopment efforts. With support from the Philadelphia Office of Housing and Community Development, the partnership has yielded impressive results. About 60% of the neighborhood's vacant lots—over 660 sites—have been cleaned and planted with grass and trees or transformed into community spaces and gardens.

The 15-minute video documents this story of struggle, collaboration, and transformation through interviews with community residents and staff of both organizations. It was produced by Visitors Almanac Television with assistance from Comcast Cable.

Copies are available for $7.00 each (includes shipping and handling). To order, please send checks (payable to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society) to: Sonia Castro, PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Workshops for City Gardeners

Beginning in April, PHS will offer a three-part workshop series designed to meet the needs of city gardeners. The series will focus on creating a garden plan and dealing with urban conditions including limited space, limited sunlight, container gardening and security. The workshops will be held on two Tuesday evenings, April 30 and May 7, and the weekend of May 18.

For locations, times, and additional information, please contact Chela Kleiber at (215) 988-8775 or *ckleiber@pennhort.org* or visit *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*

FREE LECTURE SERIES

Woody Plants of Fairmount Park: Past, Present and Future

Six Mondays, March 25 – April 29, 7:00 pm, PHS Auditorium

PHS and the Wagner Free Institute of Science will co-sponsor a six-week course, *Woody Plants of Fairmount Park: Past, Present and Future.*

Using information from early literature and herbarium specimens, **Professor Alfred E. Schuyler** will show us how the woody flora in Fairmount Park has changed from the 18th century to the present. We will consider the impacts of human activities and invasive biota on plant diversity during the past 200 years. Finally, we will discuss management procedures to achieve and maintain the desired level of biodiversity in Fairmount Park.

This course is free and open to the public and will be held in the PHS Auditorium. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required. Registered students will receive a syllabus and reading list as part of their registration acknowledgement. **To register, please call (215) 763-6529, ext. 23.**

Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler is associated with the Wagner Free Institute of Science, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research.

The Greening of Havana

Philadelphia Green Staff Members Visit Cuba

With guidance from the Rodale Institute, a leader in organic research, many of us on the Philadelphia Green staff have been working to increase our understanding of organic gardening methods.

Through this collaboration with Rodale, Philadelphia Green project manager Eileen Gallagher, Iris Brown of the Norris Square Neighborhood Project, and I had an opportunity last November to visit Cuba, where a highly successful program in organic urban agriculture is transforming the landscape and its people. The trip was organized by Global Exchange, a nonprofit organization that leads international tours.

To appreciate the magnitude of Cuba's accomplishments in urban agriculture, it helps to know that the country has been struggling for decades with a widespread economic crisis and food shortage. With the fall of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, Cuba—which had been heavily dependent on the USSR—lost access to much of its imported supplies and export revenues. Because of the long-standing trade embargo and limited resources, the island nation had little choice but to move toward agricultural independence. To that end, the country is returning to traditional methods—including hand- and animal-drawn cultivation—complemented by the latest organic knowledge. The new approach has greatly reduced food shortages and has boosted the overall economy as well.

Our group of 12 visited Havana City and its immediate outskirts, known as Havana Province. Havana City alone is now home to hundreds of organic urban gardens, ranging from 2 to 10 acres. About 1,300 government-salaried gardeners tend the gardens, along with students who work there as part of their education. Growers receive training at regional centers, and government media campaigns promote the benefits of eating fresh vegetables, so demand for organic produce is growing.

An urban garden in Havana

An organic vegetable stand in Havana

Cuba's efforts to turn vacant lots into productive organic food gardens may offer some useful models as we work to improve the urban landscape in Philadelphia. We are currently working with Rodale to develop organic gardening workshops and educational signboards for our community gardens. We are also exploring ways to make locally grown produce more accessible to urban residents. For example, we hope to bring some of the food grown in Philadelphia Green's "Keystone Gardens" to the neighborhood farmers' markets that have recently sprung up across the city.

To learn more about Cuba's efforts or organic gardening, please call Eileen Gallagher at (215) 988-8880 or John Verin, at (215) 988-8885. Slide presentations for groups can be arranged. Also visit *www.rodaleinstitute.org* and *www.globalexchange.org*

– John Verin, Philadelphia Green project coordinator

Fifth Annual Party for the Parks

The fifth annual Party for the Parks, held on December 6 at Philadelphia's City Hall, celebrated the achievements of Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project during 2001. The Mayor's Reception Room could barely hold the standing-room-only crowd, which included 230 volunteers representing 35 parks, as well as Philadelphia Department of Recreation staff. The ceremony opened with Puerto Rican drum music performed by volunteers from the Norris Square Neighborhood Project. Speakers included Enrique Peñalosa, the former mayor of Bogota, Columbia, who oversaw the creation of more than 1,200 parks during his three years as mayor of Columbia's largest city.

Esther Wideman at Fotteral Square Park

Philadelphia Green director Mike Groman praised the collective efforts of park volunteers, who in 2001 alone, racked up 540 workdays—over 40,000 volunteer hours—and, along with city staff, produced 59 concerts and festivals, and planted 210 new trees in neighborhood parks throughout Philadelphia.

The "Volunteer of the Year" Awards were presented to dedicated park volunteers, ranging in age from 18 to 80, who had been singled out for special recognition by their park groups. Tom Fox, director of facilities for the city's Department of Recreation, also received the third annual "Above and Beyond the Call" award.

The evening ended with an essay by Marvin Lewis, a fourth-grade student at the Huey Elementary School, which adjoins Malcolm X Memorial Park in West Philadelphia. Marvin's frank and inspiring words on the importance of parks received a standing ovation—a fitting conclusion to a night honoring some of Philadelphia's most committed community volunteers.

– Paul Bonfanti

2001 Park Volunteers of the Year

Bardascino Park	Chris Archer
Barkan Park	Mark Krull
Campbell Square	Dolores Bowers and Bill Borowski
Carroll Park	Dolores Moore
Cliveden Park	Barbara Henry
Disston Park	Tony and Linda Heisler
Elmwood Park	Maury Hutelmyer
Fairhill Square	Jasmin Bengoechea
Fairview Park	Thomas Bell
Fotteral Square	Esther Wideman
Gorgas Park	Leslie Schuster
Howell Park	Toni Kippen
Jefferson Square	Albert Dahmain
Juniata Park	Walt Mulholand
Konrad Square	Ed Woods
Louis Kahn Park	Joe Baker
Mario Lanza Park	Dan Farrell
Mifflin Square	Janet DiGiovanni
Malcolm X Memorial Park	Walter Montague
Norris Square	Bruce Ellis
Vernon Park	Frank Jones
Wharton Square	Demetruis Richardson
Wissinoming Park	Peggy Suravage
Womrath Park	Paul Lyons

Remembering Marjorie Thornton

Long-time Philadelphia Green volunteer Marjorie Thornton passed away last year. Marjorie was an avid gardener and member of the Susquehanna Garden Club in her North Philadelphia neighborhood. The club was formed as part of Philadelphia Green's "Greene Countrie Towne" project.

Marjorie was known as a passionate gardener who always had room for one more plant. "Her garden was like an amazing jungle," recalls PG staff member Janet Carter, who worked closely with her. Marjorie worked in her garden well into her 70s and served as secretary of the garden club. She was also a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. "She loved anything having to do with people and gardening," Janet notes.

Marjorie was also passionate about giving back to her community. She tutored neighborhood children in her home after school and often took kids to museums and other educational sites. Says Janet, "Marjorie firmly believed in the saying, 'It Takes a Village to Raise a Child.' She thought it was your duty to share your knowledge with the younger generation, and she didn't just talk about it, she did it." *–JC*

Correction

We are pleased to welcome Ginger Nicholson to the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. Her name was not included on the list of new board members published in the January/February *PG News*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE
Kids Grow Expo
May 6–10
Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park

Kids Grow Expo Teachers Workshop

Tuesday, March 19, 3:30–5pm
PHS Auditorium

For more information, please contact Flossie Narducci at (215) 988-8897 or *fnarducc@pennhort.org*

Philadelphia Green Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 27, 9am–1pm

The annual plant sale will be held at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. Order forms will be mailed in late March. For more information, please contact Flossie Narducci at (215) 988-8897 or *fnarducc@pennhort.org*

Daffodil Day

Date to be announced

In early May, a spring gardening day is planned in the American Street Empowerment Zone, where thousands of daffodils were planted on vacant lots last fall. For information or to volunteer, please contact Margaret Funderburg at (215) 988-1603 or *mfunderburg@pennhort.org*

Volunteers Needed At Center City Sites

Regularly scheduled gardening days are held from March through November at the following three sites in Center City. Activities at each location begin at 9am and end at 12 noon. Gardening days are re-scheduled in the event of heavy rain. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Joan Kapczynski at (215) 988-8865 or *jkapczyn@pennhort.org*

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Join the "Museum Green" volunteers on the grounds of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Saturday, April 6 and Saturday, November 2. Meet in the East courtyard.

Azalea Garden

3rd Saturday of each month

[Note: the first gardening day is March 23rd, which is the 4th Saturday in March. And May's gardening day is on the 11th, just before the Azalea Garden Party.]

"Ribbon of Gold"

Second Saturday of each month

The Ribbon of Gold includes two sites—the Eastern State Penitentiary and the median plantings along Spring Garden Street. For the Penitentiary, meet at the main entrance on Fairmount Avenue near 21st Street. For Spring Garden Street, meet at 19th & Spring Garden Streets. [Note: In March and September, gardening days are moved to the 3rd Saturday because of the Philadelphia Flower Show and the Harvest Show.]

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
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Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
(215) 988-8800
March/April 2002

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Philadelphia Green Partners with City's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative

Since the mid-1990s, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program has been actively working to address the problem of vacant land in Philadelphia. So far nearly 1,000 parcels of land have been "stabilized" by clearing lots of trash and weeds, planting grass and trees, and installing fences.

Building on early successes—first in the New Kensington neighborhood and then in the American Street Empowerment Zone in lower North Philadelphia—Philadelphia Green is now partnering with the city to bring this effort to other parts of Philadelphia. In June 2001, eight vacant lots became the kick-off sites for an ambitious citywide effort, which is on its way to successfully clearing debris and weeds from 31,000 parcels in the first year. This spring, those eight sites are being further improved with trees, new soil, grass and wood fencing, creating park-like settings for relaxation and recreation.

A vacant lot on the 2000 block of North 6th Street, before treatment (top) and after (bottom).

These improvements represent the first phase of a comprehensive approach to land management—a "Green City Strategy" being developed by Philadelphia Green in partnership with the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (Mayor John Street's anti-blight campaign). The effort is designed to demonstrate that basic improvements of vacant land, along with a plan for regular maintenance, can play a key role in revitalizing struggling urban neighborhoods.

Philadelphia Green manages the project, with funding supplied by the city and the William Penn Foundation. While this project is one of the first visible steps of the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, other plans are rapidly taking shape, including demolition of as many as 14,000 abandoned buildings over the next five years. Some of the resulting vacant lots will be planted with trees and grass and others will be kept free of debris with periodic cleanings. The city will reserve a number of lots for future development opportunities, while other parcels will be kept as permanent green space.

– Bob Grossmann,
Philadelphia Green Program Manager

Volunteers Honored at Philadelphia Green Brunch

Each year Philadelphia Green recognizes the achievements of its volunteers at a special brunch held on the last day of the Philadelphia Flower Show. Over 600 people attended this year's celebration on March 10th.

Philadelphia Green director Mike Groman presented framed certificates to dedicated Tree Tender groups and individuals who look after street trees in neighborhoods throughout the city. Awards were also presented to businesses in North Philadelphia that have supported ongoing efforts to restore vacant land in the American Street Empowerment Zone.

In keeping with the theme of the 2002 Flower Show, "Pleasures of the Garden," PHS executive vice president Blaine Bonham presented a slide show on the "Pleasures of Philadelphia Green Gardens," which celebrated gardens large and small throughout the city.

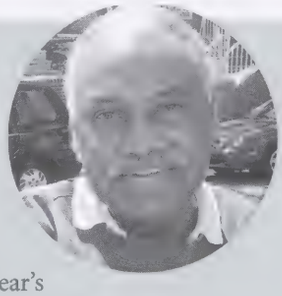
2002 Philadelphia Green Brunch Honorees

Tree Tender Groups:
Bel Arbor Tree Tenders
Central Roxborough Tree Tenders
East Falls Tree Tenders
Fernhill Park Tree Tenders
Manayunk Neighbors Tree Tenders
Oak Lane Tree Tenders
South Philadelphia Tree Tenders
University City Tree Tenders
Washington Square West Tree Tenders
Wissahickon Neighbors Tree Tenders

Individual Tree Tenders:
Lisa Blum
Jim Donaghy
Gus Jardell
Andy Jickling
Councilman Michael Nutter
Hal Rosner
Julianne Schieffer
John Steptoe
Rich Sunday

American Street Empowerment Zone Businesses:
American Metal Moulding
Honor Foods
Route Messengers of

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: John Steptoe



Take a visit to the 6200 block of Ellsworth Street some time—you're in for a treat, as you'll discover an active group of neighbors in this West Philadelphia community who are devoted to caring for street trees and enhancing their homes with colorful windowboxes and planters. The man behind this "green oasis" is John Steptoe, who has been involved with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and, specifically, Philadelphia Green "for about 20 years," at his best guess. In 1980, he helped bring new street trees to his block, and he's been hooked on greening ever since.

John, who is retired from SEPTA, keeps busy as a part-time school bus driver when he's not marshalling up support for Philadelphia Green. "Basically, what I do is broadcast the news about what Philadelphia Green can do for the community," he reflects. "Word-of-mouth has been a wonderful way of getting the message out."

Not only is John a presence on his block, but he also has served on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board for eight years and on PHS Council for the past four. His enthusiasm for greening extends to the City Gardens Contest, where he's been a judge as well as a promoter of the event to his neighborhood. At the Philadelphia Green brunch at this year's Flower Show, he was honored for his work as a Tree Tender.

John claims that he's more of a "tree-lover" than a gardener, but it seems his green thumb is getting itchy. He's been working recently with some concerned neighbors to reclaim a trashed, vacant lot a few blocks from his home. "We're looking to make this lot into our neighborhood garden," he says.

And while John now buses children to school, once a year he buses *plants* from Philadelphia Green's Plant Sale to his block, where neighbors come by to pick up their wares from his makeshift "garden center." Echoing his main mission with greening, he adds, "It's all about spreading the word."

– John Gannon

Attention City Gardeners!

Enter the 2002 City Gardens Contest

Be a Contestant:

If you garden in Philadelphia, you qualify to enter the City Gardens Contest. Amateur gardeners compete in a number of different categories from flower to vegetable to container gardens. Just fill out the form below and mail to: City Gardens Contest, PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 by June 10. Good luck!

Be a Judge:

Spend a July day visiting gardens as large as a city block or as tiny as a backyard patio, and help choose the winners! Please contact Flossie Narducci at (215) 988-8897 or *fnarducc@pennhort.org*

June 10 is the deadline to become a judge or to enter as a contestant. For more information, please contact Flossie Narducci, at (215) 988-8897 or *fnarducc@pennhort.org*

Win Great Prizes

Winners receive $50, $25, and $10 gift certificates, along with a one-year membership to The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

City Gardens Contest Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address of garden: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Email: _____

Check appropriate category:

Individual Gardens

- ☐ Individual Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Individual Flower Garden
- ☐ Combination Flower/Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Individual Container Garden
- ☐ Child's Garden

Community Gardens

- ☐ Community Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Community Flower/Sitting Garden
- ☐ Combination Vegetable/Flower Garden
- ☐ Children's Garden
- ☐ "Garden Block" with window boxes and sidewalk planters
- ☐ "The Greenest Block in Town" (street trees/front yards)

Volunteer at The 2002 Philadelphia Harvest Show

THEME: "Rock-and-Roll Harvest!"

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, September 14–15

WHERE: Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park

Help make the 2002 Philadelphia Harvest Show another bountiful event. If you'd like to help out behind the scenes and will be available Wednesday through Sunday, September 11–15, please fill out this form and mail to: PHS 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia PA 19103-1495, attn: Betty Greene, or send an email to *bgreene@pennhort.org*

Harvest Show Shoppe

Sign up now to assist in setup or sales at the PHS Harvest Show Shoppe. Volunteers are needed for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 13, 14, and 15. Please call Bernice Murphy, chair of Shoppe volunteers, at (610) 446-5988 for information and scheduling.

Sign me up to help at the Harvest Show!

PG News

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Clerks	Friday, 9/13	9:30 am – 12:30 pm	☐
Setup	Wednesday, 9/11	9 am – 4 pm	☐
	Thursday, 9/12	9 am – 4 pm	☐
Horticulture Information Booth	Friday, 9/13	4 – 7 pm	☐
	Saturday, 9/14	10 am – 5 pm	☐
	Sunday, 9/15	10 am – 5 pm	☐
Entry Aids	Thursday, 9/12	3:15 – 7 pm	☐
	Friday, 9/13	7:15 – 10 am	☐
Information Aides (Welcome and direct visitors)	Friday, 9/13	5:15 – 7:15 pm	☐
	Saturday, 9/14	9:30 am – noon	☐
		noon – 2:30 pm	☐
		2:30 – 5 pm	☐
	Sunday, 9/15	9:30 – noon	☐
		noon – 2:30 pm	☐
		2:30 – 5 pm	☐
Youth Section Aides	Thursday, 9/12	2 – 4:30 pm	☐
		4:30 – 7 pm	☐
	Friday, 9/13	7:30 – 10 am	☐
Children's Activities	Saturday, 9/14	11 am – 4 pm	☐
	Sunday, 9/15	11 am – 4 pm	☐
Veggie Races	Saturday, 9/14	9 am – 5 pm	☐
	Sunday, 9/15	9 am – 5 pm	☐

Harvest Show Challenge Classes

Exhibitors in the Harvest Show Challenge Classes must grow their entries from seed. You may buy your own seeds or obtain them from PHS. All varieties must be grown in a container; only one plant per container is permitted. Entries will be judged on quality, size, and condition of plants and on the overall appearance of the container.

Class 220 'Lee' okra
Class 221 'Yellow Canary' tomato
Class 222 *Malope trifida* 'Pink Queen' (mallow)

Limited quantities of seeds are available from PHS through June 30. Order early so that your seeds can be planted in time for optimum growth. Please send your request for seeds to:

Harvest Show Challenge Seeds
c/o Shows Department
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th St., 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

Neighborhood Gardens Association Offers Help with Land Ownership Questions

Now that Philadelphia is officially moving forward with Mayor Street's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, this is a great time to consider taking ownership of your community garden. For the last 15 years, the Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust (NGA) has helped individuals and community groups research the ownership of vacant lots in their neighborhoods.

Determining ownership is an essential first step in making short- and long-term plans. Will your garden be temporary or would you like to create a permanent green space for everyone to enjoy for years to come? The city has several programs to help speed up the process of transferring land to community ownership. To learn more about land ownership and your options, please call NGA at (215) 988-8797, or visit their website at *www.ngalandtrust.org*

Help for Gardeners During the Drought

With severe drought conditions, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society encourages gardeners to use water wisely at all times and to obey local restrictions on water usage. Here are some easy ways to conserve water in the garden:

- Use mulch to preserve soil moisture.
- Use composted soil.
- Choose plants with low water requirements.
- Use shading to protect sensitive plants from the hot sun.
- In Pennsylvania, drought restrictions are as follows: Water only between 5pm and 9am. Irrigate with a hand-held container or a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Sprinklers and soaker hoses are prohibited for home use.
- Use "gray water" on ornamental plants when possible ("Gray water" refers to all non-toilet wastewater created from household uses, such as phosphate-free dishwashing and laundry, dehumidification and bath water.)

For more information on gardening during the drought, visit the McLean Library at PHS, which has many books on water-wise gardening and xeriscaping (gardening in dry conditions). Water-saving tips are also available on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*. The following organizations also provide important drought information for Delaware Valley residents.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
(717) 783-4693
Drought Hotline: 1-888-457-6653
www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought/

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
(609) 292-7219
www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/index.html

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
(302) 739-4403
www.dnrec.state.de.us/dnrec2000/Water Resources.asp

Philadelphia Water Department
(215) 685-6300
www.phillywater.org

Tree Tenders Training

The next Tree Tenders training classes begin in June. They will be held on three Wednesdays—June 5, 12, and 19, 6–9 pm at PHS; and Saturday June 8, 10–1 pm, at a location to be announced.

Tree Tenders training includes tree identification and biology, instruction on planting, pruning, and root care, and tips for recognizing signs of urban stress. The workshops will also focus on community organizing including fundraising, working with the media, finding and keeping volunteers, and working with the city.

Tree Tenders training is free to Philadelphia residents. Groups of 4 or more who attend all sessions will receive free tree-care tools. **To register, please contact Mindy Maslin at (215) 988-8844 or *mmaslin@pennhort.org* by May 31.**

Action News Gardening Tips

If you watch the local television news, don't miss PHS's own Patricia Schrieber, the "Action News" gardening expert. She appears each Friday evening, from April through October, at approximately 5:50 pm on Channel 6 (ABC). Together with ABC's Dave Roberts, Patricia talks about a variety of seasonal gardening topics. The segments are repeated on Sunday mornings between 10:10 and 10:25 am. You can see a summary of topics covered on the Action News website, *www.wpvi.com.* Click on "Garden Tips 2002."

SPRING INTO YOUR PARK

Saturday, May 4

Philadelphia Green and the Philadelphia Department of Recreation invite you to "Spring Into Your Park" on Saturday, May 4 for the fourth annual city-wide cleanup. Join hundreds of Philadelphians who care about parks as they paint, rake, sweep, plant, picnic, sing and dance. This is a great way to help spruce up your park, meet your neighbors, have fun and get a free tee shirt, too!

Most park groups will hold activities between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Activities and times vary from park to park. For specific information, please contact Paul Bonfanti (215) 988-8878 or *pbonfanti@pennhort.org*

Parks Revitalization Project Receives Award

At its annual conference on March 26, the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society presented its Excellence in Programming Award to Philadelphia Green for its Parks Revitalization Project, which created an innovative partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and community volunteers to revitalize the city's neighborhood parks.

Philadelphia Green associate director Joan Reilly has also received the Partnership Award from the Department of Recreation for her dedication to the Parks project.

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100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor
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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Volunteers Join PHS to Improve & Celebrate their Neighborhoods

When spring comes to Philadelphia, people throughout the city roll up their sleeves to beautify their neighborhoods and strengthen their communities through horticulture. During the month of May alone, a remarkable number of volunteers in all parts of the city participated in community projects organized by Philadelphia Green.

On May 4th, Philadelphia Green and the city's Department of Recreation hosted **Spring into Your Park,** which brought 1,000 volunteers to 41 neighborhood parks, where they cleaned, planted, weeded, and just celebrated the hard work that keeps their parks looking vibrant and green throughout the year.

On May 4th and 11th in North Philadelphia, Philadelphia Green held the annual **Growing Greener Communities** event in partnership with Frankford Group Ministry and the Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha (APM). During the morning hours, residents participated in garden cleanups, street cleanings, plantings, and tree-care workshops. Volunteers from Old First Reform Church and New Desires Inc. also lent a hand. The two-year-old Frankford Garden Club held its first neighborhood plant sale, which was a big success. After the work was done, residents celebrated with a barbecue, music, children's activities and lots of laughter.

As part of the Growing Greener event, a moving dedication ceremony was held on May 11th for the **Garden of Hope** at Hogar de Esperanza, a housing development for special-needs residents built by APM. The garden was created through a partnership among Hogar's residents, Philadelphia Green, and the Department of Recreation's Mural Arts program. This intimate sitting garden includes a three-dimensional mural that incorporates poetry by Hogar residents.

On May 4th in the **American Street Empowerment Zone,** volunteers planted daylilies, shrubs, and colorful annuals on vacant industrial lots that have recently been "cleaned and greened" by Philadelphia Green. A large-scale planting effort scheduled for May 11th was thwarted by rain, but undaunted volunteers, including children, continued to beautify the lots during the following week.

continued on page 3

SAVE THE DATE

Philadelphia Harvest Show
"Rock-and-Roll Harvest"

Saturday and Sunday,
September 14 & 15, 2002
10:00 am–5:00 pm

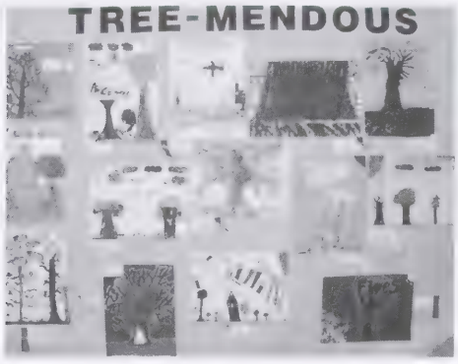
Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park
Admission: Adults $6, Children $2

Opening Celebration
Friday, September 13, 4–7 pm

Dedication ceremony for the Garden of Hope.

John Gannon

Tree-Mendous Tree Posters



John Gannon

Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders Teachers program recently sponsored a poster contest for children at seven Philadelphia elementary schools. The theme, "Tree-mendous Trees!" celebrated the numerous benefits that trees bring to the urban environment. The winning posters were displayed at the Kids Grow Expo, and are on view at the Please Touch Museum until July 6.

2002 Kids Grow Expo

The **Kids Grow Expo,** PHS's horticultural exhibition by and for school-age children, took place on May 8th and 9th at the Horticulture Center in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park.

For parents, teachers and others who work with children, the Kids Grow Expo offers a great opportunity for creative learning outside of the classroom. The Expo includes educational exhibits, service-learning projects, and competitive classes (both artistic and horticultural), where children can win prizes for their home-grown creations.

"This year's theme, *Let's Celebrate,* was inspired by PHS's 175th anniversary in 2002," says Flossie Narducci, PHS special events manager. Activities and projects focused on special accomplishments, events, or milestones in children's lives, such as birthdays, getting a pet, winning a game, or learning to drive a car.

The Rodale Institute, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, the Awbury Arboretum, the Philadelphia Water Department, and Lincoln and Saul High Schools all participated in the two-day event.

S. Wheeling

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Dorene Martin

John Gannon

Anyone who has passed by the south façade of the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia's Fairmount section knows that it looks terrific these days. That's largely due to a dedicated group of volunteers. "There's one volunteer we really count on," says Julie Snell, the PG project coordinator who oversees the site, "and that's Dorene Martin."

Dorene has been actively involved at Eastern State since 1989, when revitalization of its landscape became a priority for some Fairmount residents, who contacted Philadelphia Green. Dorene was already active with the Fairmount Civic Association, and she eagerly joined the committee to beautify the site. "We really started with just dirt," says Dorene. "It was really fun creating something new and working with people from the neighborhood."

The first big workday drew about 100 volunteers who planted 1,500 perennials—mostly gold-colored meadow flowers. Unfortunately, the original planting became difficult to maintain, as many volunteers where unable to distinguish the meadow plants from weeds when they came up in the spring. The site has since been redesigned to include tall ravenna grasses that complement the massive scale of the building, as well as large shrubs, daylilies, coreopsis, and other perennials. "We now have something in bloom from March to December." says Dorene.

Dorene and her friend Miriam Galster, another dedicated volunteer, faithfully water the gardens during the hot summer months. "We think of Eastern State as a gateway to our neighborhood," Dorene says. "So when people come by and comment on how nice it looks, it really makes you feel proud."

In addition to her busy career as a high school nurse, Dorene is active with Philadelphia Green and PHS all year long. She serves on the PG Advisory Board, helps out at the Harvest Show and is a volunteer judge for the City Gardens Contest. And every year, she helps staff the PG exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show. She explains: "I think it's especially important for Flower Show visitors to see the great work that's being done in Philadelphia's neighborhoods."

– Jane Carroll

Volunteer at The 2002 Philadelphia Harvest Show

THEME: "Rock-and-Roll Harvest!"

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, September 14–15

WHERE: Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park

Help make the 2002 Philadelphia Harvest Show another bountiful event. If you'd like to help out behind the scenes and will be available Wednesday through Sunday, September 11–15, please fill out this form and mail to: PHS 100 North 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia PA 19103-1495, attn: Betty Greene, or send an email to *bgreene@pennhort.org*

Harvest Show Shoppe

Sign up now to assist in setup or sales at the PHS Harvest Show Shoppe. Volunteers are needed for Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 12, 13, 14, and 15. Please contact Rosemary McGeary at (215) 988-1609 or *rmcgeary@pennhort.org*

Sign me up to help at the Harvest Show!

PG News

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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	Sunday, 9/15	9:30 – noon	☐
		noon – 2:30 pm	☐
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Youth Section Aides	Thursday, 9/12	2 – 4:30 pm	☐
		4:30 – 7 pm	☐
	Friday, 9/13	7:30 – 10 am	☐
Children's Activities	Saturday, 9/14	11 am – 4 pm	☐
	Sunday, 9/15	11 am – 4 pm	☐
Veggie Races	Saturday, 9/14	9 am – 5 pm	☐
	Sunday, 9/15	9 am – 5 pm	☐

Volunteers

continued from page 1

The 11th Annual **City Hall in Bloom** on May 21st drew many eager volunteers to plant over 2,000 colorful annuals in the flowerbeds and courtyards at City Hall. Children from Greenfield and Patterson elementary schools, along with volunteers from the American Red Cross, the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, and Fairmount Park staff, spruced up this city landmark with caladiums, elephant ears, impatiens, sweet potato vine, lantana, and coleus.

And in the Logan Square area, the Greening Committee of the Logan Square Neighborhood Association held a busy workday on May 4th at the **Gas Station Garden** at 20th & Arch Streets, just across the street from PHS headquarters. The garden is vibrant with sweeps of salvia, mallow, coreopsis, rudbeckia, pansies, Russian sage, and other flowering plants and grasses. The group also takes care of four London plane trees, planted two years ago along the sidewalk near the garden, and maintains the "Triangle Garden" at 23rd and Winter Streets.

Greening efforts like these continue throughout the year—involving thousands of volunteers—and are all part of PHS's efforts to help make Philadelphia a greener and more welcoming place to live, work, and visit.

– Jane Carroll and Debbie Hall

A New Guide to Reclaiming Vacant Lots

PHS's Philadelphia Green program has just completed a new how-to manual to help city agencies, community-based organizations and block groups reclaim vacant lots in the city. The guide outlines Philadelphia Green's basic "clean & green" approach to managing vacant land, which involves clearing debris, amending the soil, and planting grass and trees. The manual will also provide information on settling ownership issues, developing a site plan, and outlining a long-term maintenance strategy. Look for more details in the next issue of *PG News*.

City Gardeners Can *Share the Harvest*

Many area shelters need nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables. *Share the Harvest*—a summer program organized by Philabundance—provides a way for local gardeners to help fight hunger in our region by sowing an extra row in their home or community gardens and donating the extra produce. Drop-off locations, listed at right, are open on Saturday mornings from 10am to noon, August 3rd through September 14th.

Interested gardeners must register. Contact Philabundance at (215) 339-0900 or *ccarponter@philabundance.org*. For more information, visit their website at *www.philabundance.org*

Drop-off Locations in Philadelphia

Center City: Fresh Fields, 929 South Street
Roxborough: Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, 8480 Hagy's Mill Road
Chestnut Hill: Laurel Hill Gardens, 8125 Germantown Avenue

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

The 2002 Philadelphia Harvest Show

"Rock-and-Roll Harvest!"

September 14 & 15
10 am–5 pm
Horticulture Center
Fairmount Park

Opening Celebration

Friday, September 13
4–7 pm
at the Horticulture Center

For more information,
please call (215) 988-8800 or visit
www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org

FREE TICKETS INSIDE!

Philadelphia Green volunteers and supporters work hard to beautify our city all year long. In appreciation, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is pleased to enclose a ticket (for 2 adults) for FREE ADMISSION to this year's Philadelphia Harvest Show. See inside for a map, hours, and more information. Enjoy the Show!

The Harvest Show is just around the corner, and gardeners are keeping a watchful eye to find the plumpest tomato or the most dazzling dahlia—the one that just might turn out to be a blue ribbon winner.

At the Southwark/Queen Village Community Garden in South Philadelphia, a special Harvest Show Committee is hard at work preparing for this year's show. Garden secretary Audrey Lisowski says the garden often enters in the "Bounty by the Basket" category, but individual gardeners also vie for ribbons with their own vegetables and flowers. The group holds workshops throughout the summer to help everyone get ready.

"In August, we have a workshop on how to prepare entries and make them look their very best (our own blue ribbon secrets!)," she says. "We really enjoy the Harvest Show and look forward to it every year. We have many 'perennial' blue-ribbon winners in our garden!"

KSN Images

Pete Prown

Tree Pest Alert: Asian Longhorned Beetle

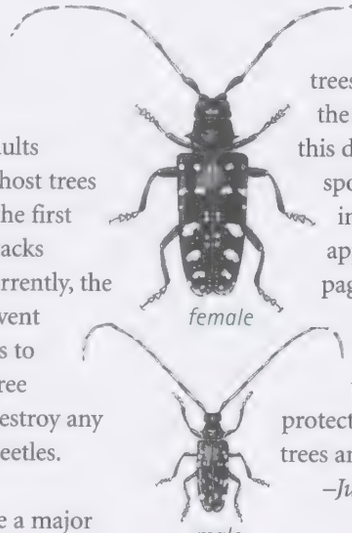
Since 1996, communities in and around New York City and Chicago have lost thousands of trees to infestations of the Asian longhorned beetle. This invasive pest (*Anoplophora glabripennis)* is thought to have come to the United States in packing materials from China sometime in the last ten years.

It's easy to see where the name comes from—the beetle has long antennae that resemble the shape of the horns on longhorned cattle (see illustration). The adults are large, glossy and black, with irregular white spots on their wing covers. The long, curved antennae are striped white and black.

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) attacks primarily the trunks and branches of hardwood trees. Most of the damage occurs when larvae tunnel their way to the heartwood in the central part of the tree, where they feed, and when the much larger adults tunnel out. When adult beetles tunnel their way out of host trees, they leave large and distinct exit holes that look perfectly round. The exit holes can measure 3/8 to 1/2 inch in diameter.

In the United States, adults generally emerge from host trees between late June and the first hard frost. Repeated attacks can kill the tree, and currently, the only known way to prevent the spread of this pest is to cut down the infested tree and chip the wood to destroy any eggs, larvae and adult beetles.

In China, the beetles are a major threat to poplar trees, but in this country, their main hosts have been members of the maple family, followed by elm, birch, willow and poplar. Early detection of the ALB is critical to prevent its spread.



female

male

People who have regular contact with trees are our first line of defense in the battle to detect and eradicate this dangerous tree pest. Anyone spotting evidence of possible ALB infestation should call an appropriate resource listed on page 3. Regular monitoring of the condition of tree stock and early detection are the best tools in the constant battle to protect the health of our invaluable trees and forests.

–Judy Antipin, USDA Forest Service

continued on page 3

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Carla Puppin

In the past seven years, Carla Puppin and her neighbors have pruned and cared for 150 trees and planted 24 new street trees in their row-house neighborhood of Bella Vista. As president of the Bel Arbor Tree Tenders, Carla takes pride in the slow transformation of her community, near the Italian Market in South Philadelphia.

"There is definitely a ripple effect from the trees," says Carla. "I see colorful window boxes and planters appearing on the streets that received them—streets that had been completely barren. Whether consciously or unconsciously, people begin to realize that greening is a good thing."

Carla knows something about trees. In 1995, she and fellow Bel Arbor members took charge of a large empty lot at 10th & Washington Streets that was becoming an eyesore; they created an urban tree farm on the lot, along with a community garden. With assistance from Philadelphia Green (which planted close to 1,000 saplings) they began to nurture young trees for transplanting on city streets. Although they are now phasing out the tree farm to concentrate on the garden, the Tree Tenders are still going strong, running neighborhood tree-care workshops and sponsoring tree plantings at the local library and other public spaces. They are also working on a "tree inventory."

As if helping to beautify her own community isn't enough, Carla also works part time for the Queen Village Neighbors Association, in the neighborhood bordering her own. She hopes to start a Tree Tenders group there as well.

Carla and her fellow Tree Tenders have also had an impact beyond South Philadelphia. With financial help from the National Tree Trust, trees from the Bel Arbor Tree Farm have been dug and distributed to other greening groups in the city. This year, notes Carla, "The last 15 trees grown on the farm are being planted at Philadelphia Green sites in other parts of the city, including the American Street Empowerment Zone, in North Philadelphia, and Gorgas Park in Roxborough."

An active member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, Carla also volunteers each year to help staff the Philadelphia Green exhibit at the Flower Show, greeting visitors, answering questions, and "telling everyone how wonderful Philadelphia Green is." Carla enjoys watching visitors' faces as they look at before-and-after pictures in the exhibit. "That's when I tell them about my own experiences," she says, "and the incredible impact Philadelphia Green has had on my community."

– Jane Carroll

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
is happy to provide a gift for you and a guest—complimentary admission to the 2002 Philadelphia Harvest Show.

2002 Philadelphia

HARVEST SHOW

Rock-and-Roll Harvest!
September 14 & 15
10 am–5 pm

Horticulture Center
Fairmount Park
Belmont & Montgomery Aves.

- vegetable and flower displays
- children's crafts
- gardening demos
- great shopping
- farm animals
- live entertainment

Rob Ikeler

TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED AT THE GATE:
Adults: $6
Children under 12: $2
(must be accompanied by an adult)

2002 PHILADELPHIA HARVEST SHOW

R♪CK-AND-R♪LL HARVEST!

ADMIT TWO
(Complimentary Admission)

September 14 & 15 • 10 am–5 pm

Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park • Belmont & Montgomery Aves.
See map on other side

Produced by THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Official Sponsors
SUBARU
BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS

2002 Philadelphia Harvest Show

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

- Free Demonstrations–learn about flower arranging, gardening and more!
- Marketplace–shop for gardening tools & gadgets, plants and garden accessories
- Garden Café–tasty lunch and treats!
- Harvest and Floral Displays–roses, dahlias, eggplants, tomatoes, beans and peppers galore! All from Philadelphia area gardens.
- Exhibits by Cultural Organizations

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- Pumpkin painting
- Garden crafts
- 3rd Annual Veggie Races
- Junior Gardener's Studio

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

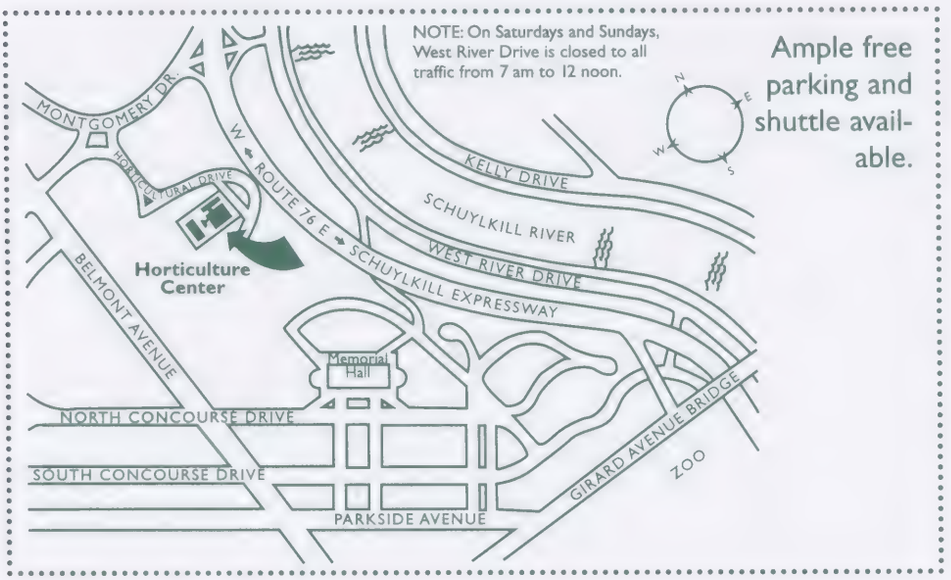
Take SEPTA Route #38 bus to Belmont and Montgomery. Walk from Montgomery to North Horticulture Drive and go through the gates to the Horticulture Center.

BY CAR

Via I-76 West - Exit at Montgomery Drive; turn left onto Montgomery Drive; take first left onto Horticultural Drive and follow the signs

Via I-76 East - Exit at Montgomery Drive; turn right onto Montgomery Drive; take first left onto Horticultural Drive and 0follow the signs

Via Belmont Avenue from Western Suburbs - Belmont Avenue to Montgomery Drive; take a left onto Montgomery Drive; first right onto Horticultural Drive and follow the signs



Jim Roese

"Fall for Your Park" Volunteers to Gather in Stenton Park

Each year since 1999, Philadelphia Green has partnered with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and park "Friends" groups to host two citywide celebrations of neighborhood parks. "Spring Into Your Park" and "Fall For Your Park" have grown from small events involving fifteen parks to last May's celebration, in which over 40 parks and 1,000 volunteers held cleanups, plantings, barbecues, and community festivals.

This season's event, Fall for Your Park, will be held on Saturday, September 28th. But rather than holding many separate events, park groups from around the city will come together in one location to help the Logan community revitalize Stenton Park. Says Vernon Park president John Sgrillo, "This is an opportunity for us who have received so much from Philadelphia Green to give something back."

Stenton Park plays a vital role in the Logan community and is heavily used by nearby residents. The fourteen-acre park features basketball and tennis courts, play-lots, ball fields, a small recreation building, a natural amphitheater, and large open spaces. Historic Stenton Mansion, the revolutionary-era home of the influential Logan family, borders the park.

But Stenton Park also faces challenges. It has suffered from vandalism and is sometimes the site of illegal activity. Physical conditions in the park have degraded in recent years. New trees are needed to replace the many dying and aging ones. Physical improvements, such as trash cans and benches, would make the park more welcoming to visitors.

Fortunately, the Stenton Park Advisory Council is a dynamic and growing group of volunteers who have been working to improve their park and community for several years. These enthusiastic residents are helping to plan the September event.

Kris Mitchell pitched in at Fotteral Square last fall.

The day will feature a cleanup, tree plantings and removals, painting, and construction, and will culminate in an afternoon festival with games, music, and food. Park friends from all over the city will come together to lend a hand, sending a clear message that parks and green spaces are vital centers of community life in Philadelphia. *– Paul Bonfanti*

For more information, please contact Paul Bonfanti at (215) 988-8878.

Tree Pest Alert: Asian Longhorned Beetle

continued from page 2

Resources

To report sighting of an Asian longhorned beetle, call:

USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) in Philadelphia (215) 597-4515 ext. 0, or
The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (717) 772-5228.

For more information on the Asian longhorned beetle, visit the following websites:

www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/alb
www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/alb/alb.html

John Gannon

Volunteers help to beautify the Winding Roses Park at Brown & Uber Streets in the city's Francisville section. The park will receive new tile mosaic tables and benches, created by an artist hired by the Department of Recreation Mural Arts Program. Philadelphia Green staff designed and created new plantings for the park, as well as for two other sites that will also receive new artworks.

Jim Roese

New Book on Urban Vacant Land

PHS executive vice president J. Blaine Bonham, Jr. is co-author of a new book, along with Gerri Spilka of the OMG Center for Collaborative Learning and Darl Rastorfer, published by the American Planning Assocation. *Old Cities/Green Cities* explores the enormity of the urban vacant land problem plaguing older industrial cities, with a special focus on Philadelphia. The book also takes a close look at PHS's Philadelphia Green and outlines a comprehensive "Green City Strategy" for the city.

This publication is available through the American Planning Association's on-line bookstore at *www.planning.org*. Or you can call the Planning Association at (312) 431-9100.

Helping PHS Through the United Way

Fall marks the kick-off of the annual United Way campaign, and through the Donor Option program, you can direct your United Way pledge or outright contribution to PHS.

Each year PHS receives nearly $10,000 in gifts through the Donor Option program. This year we hope you will consider directing your United Way gift to PHS. Simply note our Donor Option ID #06197 on your United Way pledge card.

Your contribution will help to support the Society's urban greening program, Philadelphia Green, which works with communities throughout Philadelphia to beautify neighborhoods, enhance public parks and landscapes, and preserve open green space.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

"Fall for Your Park" Event Brings 450 Volunteers to Stenton Park

FALL FOR YOUR PARK at STENTON PARK

Each year since 1999, Philadelphia Green has partnered with the city's Philadelphia Department of Recreation and park "Friends" groups to host celebrations and workdays in neighborhood parks in the spring and fall.

For this year's "Fall for Your Park" event on Saturday, September 28th, things were done a little differently. Rather than holding separate events in multiple parks, park groups from all over the city came together to help the Logan community revitalize Stenton Park, one of the newest participants in Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project. Heavily used by surrounding residents, Stenton Park plays a vital role in the Logan community, but had long suffered from neglect.

John Gannon

Volunteers help paint the fence around the perimeter of Stenton Park.

"At the end of the day, volunteers left Stenton Park with tired hands, happy hearts and renewed spirits."

–Joan Reilly of Philadelphia Green

Eager volunteers turned out in droves—about 450 people, including representatives from parks city wide, Philadelphia Green and Department of Recreation staff, volunteers with the CityYear and Young Heroes programs, and about 100 residents of the Logan community. Well-organized teams tackled an impressive number of tasks. They cleaned up trash; weeded; planted trees, shrubs and bulbs; painted a fence around the park perimeter; painted the recreation building; repaired damaged horseshoe pits; installed welcome signs at the park's two entrances; mulched trees; and painted a mural; among other accomplishments. And all in one day!

Spreading mulch around a newly planted tree.

John Gannon

At an afternoon program, PHS president Jane Pepper praised the volunteers and celebrated the community's determination to re-claim their park. Other speakers included Victor Richard, Recreation Commissioner; City Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller; Doris Gwaltney, president of Carroll Park Neighbors; and George Polydore of the Stenton Park Advisory Council. The speakers emphasized the connection between improving a park and improving the larger community.

The day concluded with games, live music, and, of course, ample food for the hard-working volunteers. "The response from members of the various park groups was just tremendous," says Joan Reilly, associate director of Philadelphia Green. "Their participation is a tribute both to their dedication and to the importance of neighborhood parks in the life of our city. At the end of the day, volunteers left the park with tired hands, happy hearts and renewed spirits." *– Jane Carroll*

PHS Wins Major Grant from the William Penn Foundation

The William Penn Foundation has awarded a two-year, $2,000,000 grant to PHS toward implementation of its "Green City Strategy," which promotes open space and greening as a critical part of revitalization and improvement efforts in Philadelphia. The Strategy has been adopted as part of the city's anti-blight campaign, the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative. At its core, the Green City Strategy aims to improve the quality of urban life by creating vibrant open spaces that will, ultimately, help retain current residents and businesses while attracting new investments to Philadelphia's neighborhoods and downtown areas.

The William Penn grant supports the interim management of vacant land until future redevelopment occurs, the creation of new open space in rebuilt neighborhoods, and Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project.

The William Penn Foundation was founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas. The Foundation promotes understanding of and action on important issues facing the Philadelphia region, in order to advance dynamic and diverse communities and to improve the region's quality of life.

The Wired Gardener— It's Why You Need Email

Produced by PHS's McLean Library staff, The Wired Gardener is a FREE monthly email alert offering reviews of good gardening web sites, mini-reviews of new library books and videos, and news of local gardening happenings. Learn why 3,500 passionate gardeners subscribe to The Wired Gardener. For sign-up instructions, contact Janet Evans, McLean Library manager, at *jevans@pennhort.org* or call (215) 988-8779.

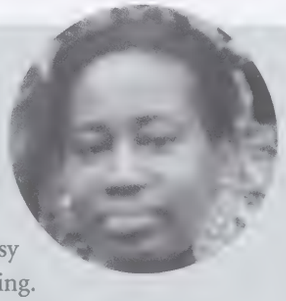
Old Cities, Green Cities

Free Lecture,
Tuesday, November 19, 6 pm
PHS Auditorium

As part of our celebration of PHS's 175th anniversary, please join us for a free lecture devoted to **Philadelphia Green and the Village of Arts and Humanities in North Philadelphia**. PHS executive vice president J. Blaine Bonham, Jr. will provide the historical background, and Lily Yeh, founding director of the Village of Arts and Humanities in North Philadelphia, will show how the Village's partnership with Philadelphia Green has launched a renaissance for its surrounding community.

1827 THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY celebrating 175 years

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Leomar Cooper



Leomar Cooper has fond memories of coming downtown as a child and seeing the colorful gardens in the courtyards around City Hall. Now, in addition to all her other volunteer activities with Philadelphia Green, she makes time each year to help with the annual spring planting, City Hall in Bloom. "It is wonderful to pass by there and know that I'm a part of that tradition," she says.

Leomar first got involved with Philadelphia Green through the Awbury Arboretum Garden Club, where she serves on the Coordinating Committee and gardens alongside two long-time Philadelphia Green volunteers, Delmer and Beverly Gill (chair of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board). The Gills nominated her for the Board, and she happily agreed. "I know how important greening is for the city, and I thought it would be a good way for me to contribute to the effort," says Leomar. "I also like knowing what is going on in other parts of Philadelphia and meeting other gardeners." She is beginning her third year of service on the Advisory Board.

Leomar volunteers each year, too, at the Philadelphia Harvest Show. This year, she helped keep the refreshments flowing at the very busy opening celebration on Friday evening. For the past two years, she has also co-chaired the "Bounty by the Basket" committee. An avid gardener and plant lover, she often submits her own entries to the Show, and this year, she took home third prize in the "Harvest Windows" category. She sees the Harvest Show as "another great way to get together with friends."

At the Flower Show, Leomar enjoys staffing the Philadelphia Green exhibit and telling people about the program. "I have no problem speaking forever about the beautiful things Philadelphia Green does for the city," she says. When not on duty there, she says, "I'll do whatever is needed." *– Jane Carroll*

2002 City Gardens Contest Community Winners

Below are the winners in the community gardening categories of the 2002 PHS City Gardens Contest. Congratulations to everyone who entered! Individual winners will be listed in the next issue of *Philadelphia Green News.*

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S GARDENS

1st Place
El Batey, Iris Brown & Kids

2nd Place
5537 Baltimore Avenue, Tracey Richards & Kids

3rd Place
Raices, Iris Brown & Kids

Honorable Mention
57th & Beaumont Streets, Chuck Lafferty & Kids

SCHOOL GARDENS

1st Place
Vare Charter School, Bonnie G. Levine Teaching Garden, Larry Stier & Kids

2nd Place
Grumblethorpe Education Program, Brandi Levine & Kids

3rd Place
Hackett Elementary School, Howard Goldstein & Kids

Honorable Mention
S. A. Douglas High School, Gladys Bukowski & Kids
Vare Middle School, Sam Williams & Kids

COMMUNITY COMBINATION VEGETABLE/FLOWER GARDENS

1st Place
The Spring Gardens, Stephan J. White & Neighbors
Ella Francis Garden, James Stanley & Neighbors
55th & Baltimore Avenue, Marion Bush & Neighbors
710 S. 19th Street, Bob Thoden & Neighbors

2nd Place
Venango Street Community Vegetable Garden, Harold Smith & Neighbors
Las Parcelas, Iris Brown & Neighbors
Bel Arbor Community Garden, Joan Sage & Neighbors
1915-19 N. 5th Street, Eva Negron & Neighbors
South Street Community Garden, Allison Weiss & Neighbors
Hamilton Ridge Garden, Amy R. Hooper/Sarah McEneaney & Neighbors
Fitzwater 2000 Community Garden, Stephen Maciejewski & Neighbors
Peach Street Community Garden, Lillie Singleton & Neighbors

3rd Place
Awbury Community Garden, Mr. & Mrs. Delmer Gill & Neighbors
Aspen Farms, Hayward Ford & Neighbors
Belgrade Community Garden, Ed Elliss & Neighbors
Broad & South Street Community Arts Garden, Allison Weiss & Neighbors
5342 W. Berks Street, Jaqueline Carthon & Neighbors
30th & Harper Streets, John Gallagher & Neighbors

Honorable Mention
Schuylkill River Park Community Garden, Maggie Dugan & Neighbors
Glenwood Green Acres, James Taylor & Neighbors
Summer/Winter Community Garden, Ed Hermance & Neighbors
1622-26 West Page Street, Ellouise Newkirk & Neighbors
15th & Butler Streets, Minnie Radcliffe & Neighbors

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDENS

1st Place
28th & Cambria Streets, Adrienne Izzard & Neighbors
Orianna Hill Park, Steve Preiss & Neighbors

2nd Place
1204-13 S. 26th Street, Cynthia Anderson & Neighbors
Seedy Acres, Sally McCabe & Neighbors

3rd Place
1933-1943 N. 31st Street, Maron Faison & Neighbors
Seedy Acres, Sue White/Peter Smith & Neighbors

Ann Reed

2002 City Gardens Contest Community Winners

Honorable Mention
Hancock & Thompson Streets, Marita Fitzpatrick & Neighbors
Southwark Queen Village, Lori Kushner & Neighbors

COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDENS

1st Place
1013 Green Street, Lu Szumsky & Neighbors
1150 S. 13th Street, Terry Bremer & Neighbors
Demonstration Garden at the Horticulture Center, Peggy Garrett & Neighbors
Stillman & Parrish Streets, Jane Gourley & Neighbors

2nd Place
St. Alban's Garden Club, Lisa Parsley/ Jim Burk & Neighbors
100 Lombard Street, John Rudolph & Neighbors
2600 E. Dauphin Street, Mary Thomas/Regina Clark & Neighbors

3rd Place
2165-67 N. 8th Street, Margarita Albandoz & Neighbors
27th Street & Montgomery Avenue, Goldie Bowden & Neighbors

Honorable Mention
7101 Stenton Avenue, Rella & Curtis Lewis & Neighbors
Jardin De Paz, Iris Brown & Neighbors
St. Simon's Church, Golde A. Fitzpatrick & Neighbors

FIRST YEAR COMMUNITY GARDENS

1st Place
1218-20 S. 17th Street , Nathan Chatmon & Neighbors (EUGENE E. SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD)

2nd Place
1932-1938 N. Marshall Street, Robert Jacobs & Neighbors
Friendship Garden of Dickinson Street, Geraldine Johnson & Neighbors

3rd Place
Friends Community Garden, Saro Rodriquez & Neighbors
Sloan Street Community Garden, Carolyn Smith & Neighbors
Outley House, Leslie Brown & Neighbors

PHILADELPHIA GREEN GARDEN BLOCKS

1st Place
1500 Block of E. Berks Street, Paula Hudy & Neighbors

2nd Place
2000 Block of Rodman Street, Julie Hirsch-Waxman & Neighbors
2100 Block of Wharton Street, Theressa McCormick & Neighbors

3rd Place
1900 Block of S. Chadwick Street, Anna Maria Vona & Neighbors

THE GREENEST BLOCK IN TOWN

1st Place
3500 Block of N. 24th Street, Mr. & Mrs. Obediah J. Foster & Neighbors

2nd Place
2100 Block of Saint James Place, Heather & Michael Ascher & Neighbors

3rd Place
5000 Block of Walton Avenue, Rosalind Thomas & Neighbors
800 Block of S. 48th Street, J. Voelker & Neighbors

Honorable Mention
2300 Block of Saint Alban's Place, Lisa Parsley/Jim Burk & Neighbors
3700 Block N. 15th Street, Minnie Radcliffe & Neighbors

PHILADELPHIA GREEN PARKS REVITALIZATION PROJECT

1st Place
Friends of Vernon Park, John Sgrillo & Neighbors
Friends of Mario Lanza Park, Gail Chapman & Neighbors

2nd Place
Friends of Gorgas Park, Leslie Schuster & Neighbors
Friends of Konrad Square, Ed Woods & Neighbors

3rd Place
Norris Square Park, Julie Feliciano & Neighbors
Cianfrani Park, Dennis McGlade & Neighbors

Honorable Mention
Jefferson Square Park, Paulina DeMarco-Davis & Neighbors
Friends of Wissinoming Park, Pete Tweed & Neighbors
Friends of Howell Park, Toni Kippen & Neighbors
Campbell Square Park, Susan Ongirski & Neighbors

John Gannon

Philadelphia Green Creates "Art Gardens" with City's Mural Arts Program

Philadelphia Green recently collaborated with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation Mural Arts Program (MAP) to create three new "art gardens" in the city. Philadelphia Green helped coordinate community involvement in the design process and helped create plans for long-term maintenance of the gardens. Landscape architect Sarah Endriss designed plantings to complement existing murals and new artworks at the three sites. Artists selected by MAP worked with local teens from their "Mural Core" program to design and construct new artwork for the gardens.

At Winding Roses Park in the Francisville neighborhood, the teens worked with artist David Woods to design colorful benches and tables decorated with mosaic tiles. The mosaics feature flower images and words chosen to symbolize neighborhood values. Newly planted trees, shrubs and flowers—including climbing roses planted along the fence—complement the design of the existing mural, connecting it to the garden and unifying the site.

In the city's Feltonville section, Mural Core workers and artist Shira Walinsky created a Reading Garden at the Wyoming Library. Planting beds along the edge of the garden create quiet areas for reading under shade trees among flowering plants. The "Story Book Tree," surrounded by stones for sitting, marks a central area for groups of children to gather. Scattered about the garden are aluminum books, or "Story Book Sculptures," that refer to folk tales representing the many cultural groups living in the neighborhood.

John Gannon

The gardens and mural at Winding Roses Park

In Gray's Ferry, a "Peace Plaza" was developed around the "Peace Wall," an existing mural painted by Jane Golden, director of the Mural Arts Program. The Peace Wall, which shows many hands coming together, was created as a powerful message of unity during a period of racial strife and violence in the neighborhood. Working with artist Susanne Fell Adams, the young adults created stepping-stone mosaics featuring images of peace, which were set into three pathways that wind through the garden and converge in a central plaza. A grove of river birch trees creates a feeling of tranquility, and a sweep of perennials and ornamental grasses frame the mural. Once a blighted area overgrown with weeds and trash, this site now serves as a place for community reflection.

"It's been a wonderful collaboration," notes Philadelphia Green project manager Carl Haefner. "It was fun to work with creative people, including the MAP staff, the artists, and the young people. They all brought fresh ideas into the process of building a garden together."

Plans are in the works to collaborate on three more art gardens next year.

Gardeners at work on Peace Plaza.

John Gannon

New Philadelphia Green Manual Available!

PHS's Philadelphia Green program has compiled a "how-to" manual to help city agencies, community-based organizations and block groups reclaim vacant lots in the city. ***Reclaiming Vacant Lots*** outlines Philadelphia Green's basic "clean & green" approach to managing vacant land, which involves clearing debris, planting grass and trees and installing fences. The manual also provides information on settling ownership issues, developing a site plan, and outlining a long-term maintenance strategy.

To order a copy of the guide, please send $4 to: PHS, Attn: Sonia Castro, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Please include your name, mailing address and phone number, along with check or money order made payable to PHS. **Please do not send cash. Also, write "Reclaiming Vacant Lots" on your check or money order. Supplies are limited, order today!**

For more information, please call (215) 988-8889 or email: *scastro@pennhort.org*

Volunteer at the 2003 Philadelphia Flower Show

Join us at the Pennsylvania Convention Center as a behind-the-scenes volunteer from March 2–9, 2003. If you would like to help, check the box(es) that interest you and return this form to PHS.

Exhibitor Aides: Help exhibitors transport plants from D-Hall to freight elevator and to entry area. Entry level job.
Runner: Carry cards for corrections to and from typing table. Entry level job.
Recorder: Log information on plant entries. Attention to detail and an ability to keep calm under pressure are required.
Clerk: Accompany horticulture or design judging teams; record judges' decisions and place award ribbons.
Infonet: Welcome and direct visitors to the Flower Show, help with the phone bank, serve as Show floor or Concourse ambassador, or staff an information booth.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (daytime) _____

Email _____

To sign up, please return this coupon by January 10, 2003 to:
Betty Greene, PHS, 100 N. 20th St., 2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495; or call (215) 988-8826; or email: *bgreene@pennhort.org* We will contact you with more information.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

2003 Philadelphia Flower Show

Festival de las Flores

This year's Philadelphia Flower Show will heat up the Pennsylvania Convention Center with an exciting celebration of Latin American culture, *Festival de las Flores*. The Show runs from March 2–9, 2003.

This year's Philadelphia Green exhibit will include a large photographic mural of plantings along Spring Garden Street, as well as multiple photographs and video presentations of other projects throughout the city.

Visitors will enter the Flower Show through a gateway festooned with colorful masks and figures, inspired by the *Fiesta Santiago de Apostal*, held each July in the village of Loiza, Puerto Rico. Loiza (pronounced "Louisa") is the hometown of Iris Brown, a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board.

Ed Lindemann, Flower Show designer and director, explains that Loiza offered plenty of inspiration for this year's theme. "I met with Iris and told her I wanted the Show to reflect the multicultural history of Puerto Rico, with an emphasis on festivals and music. Her grin grew wider as she listened, and then she told me about Loiza and its nickname, the "Village of Festivals."

"Our community considers it a privilege to take part in the Flower Show," says Iris. "There is a lot of excitement, both here and in Loiza." The Norris Square community has been involved with Philadelphia Green for more than 20 years.

For the first Central Feature exhibit, Robertson's of Chestnut Hill will create a replica of Loiza's town square. The coastal village was settled by freed African slaves, who had been brought to Puerto Rico by Spanish colonists. Featuring a central pool and fountain, houses and shops, the exhibit will also include the village church—the oldest continuously operated church in Puerto Rico.

Behind the church, live dancers will perform the traditional island dance, the bamba, periodically throughout the day. Women from *Groupo Motivo*, a neighborhood organization from Iris Brown's Norris Square community in North Philadelphia, will create authentic costumes for the dancers. Professional jazz

continued on page 2

2003 Philadelphia Flower Show

March 2–9

Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia

Ticket Information

General admission
Adults: $24 on Opening Sunday (March 2), $22 weekends and $20 weekdays

Children aged 2 to 12:
$10 (good any day)

Advance tickets: $18

Group tickets (20 or more people):
$17.50

Advance tickets can be purchased at SEPTA outlets, PNC Banks, participating florists and nurseries, and online at *www.theflowershow.com*

For more information, please visit the website or call (215) 988-8899.

Philadelphia Green Brunch

Join us on **Sunday, March 9 at 11:30 am** for the annual Philadelphia Green Brunch at the Flower Show. Your brunch ticket ($28) includes Flower Show admission. Invitations will be mailed at the end of January.

Flower Show

continued from page 1

musician William Cepeda—who also grew up in Loiza—will perform on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The second Central Feature exhibit has a Mexican theme, the *Old Tijuana Cantina*, created by Samia Rose Topiary of Encinitas, California. The third major display, *Sueños Florecientes de la Noche*, or "Flowering Dreams of the Night," is a fantasy garden with a waterfall, a rustic foot-bridge, and a 6-foot-wide lily pad sporting table and chairs set for dinner.

Revenues generated by the Philadelphia Flower Show, including contributions from the Show's presenting sponsor, PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., help support the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's programs, including Philadelphia Green. *– Jane Carroll*

PHS Receives Grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts

The Pew Charitable Trusts has pledged $900,000 to PHS in support of the Society's Green City Strategy, which promotes open space and greening as a critical part of revitalization and improvement efforts in Philadelphia. The Strategy has been adopted as part of the city's anti-blight campaign, the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative.

A significant portion of the Pew funds will support staff management of high-profile public landscapes and gateways in the city's downtown. Major sites include the grounds of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Azalea Garden along Kelly Drive, John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Penn's Landing and other areas along the Delaware River waterfront through Center City. The grant will also fund development of a comprehensive Center City Open Space Plan, which will lay out a long-term strategy for future improvements to downtown public landscapes.

The Pew Charitable Trusts support nonprofit activities in the areas of culture, education, the environment, health and human services, public policy and religion. Based in Philadelphia, the Trusts make strategic investments to help organizations and citizens develop practical solutions to difficult problems.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: James Stanley

Few people epitomize the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's mission—to motivate people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture—more than James Stanley does. In fact, his dedication to the Society's mission earned him a Certificate of Merit at last November's Annual Meeting. He has been affiliated with Philadelphia Green for a decade, and this year, he begins another term on the Advisory Board.

James moved to Philadelphia in his 20s, having grown up on a farm in Georgia and bringing his love of gardening with him. In 1991, he decided to brighten his auto-body shop at 52nd & Columbia Avenues with a few planters—and kept going. Over the years, he has been a major force for greening in his West Philadelphia neighborhood, maintaining three gardens and rallying other residents to plant their own gardens.

What keeps him going? "I like beauty; I like having beautiful things around me," James explains. "Every time I see a vacant lot, I encourage people to adopt the sites and help turn it into a garden space."

James also works to get young people involved in beautifying the community. He started a children's garden at 51st St. & Parkside Avenue. Each summer he runs a neighborhood cleanup program, enlisting one or two children from each block in the neighborhood to pick up trash and keep their streets looking nice. And recently, he began running a community landscape program for the West Parkside Culture and Opportunity Center. It is an eight-week program that provides training in landscape design and gardening for youngsters aged four to 16.

James's large garden 52nd & Parkside is often visited by PHS tour groups. He is a master of recycling, and the garden includes a gazebo built with found objects, as well as columns made of five-gallon plastic restaurant buckets. It has won numerous prices in the annual PHS City Gardens Contest.

Always busy, James now has another new venture—his own landscaping business. In another show of commitment to his own neighborhood, one of his first clients is the Mann Music Center, located just across the street from his garden on Parkside Avenue. *– Jane Carroll*

Suzanne Wheeling

2002 City Gardens Contest Individual Winners

Below are the winners in the five individual categories of the 2002 PHS City Gardens Contest.

First Place Winners

Iris Brown
Sophia Campbell
Maria Carmichael
Phyllis Donahue
Victoria H. Fox
Ivey Galitan
Leo Gealt
Jeanne Goldberg
JoAnn Hardy
Joy Kerschner
Lawrence King
Diane Kunze/John Neugebauer
Laura Lanza
Toney Lucas
Alison McDowell
Samantha Mickey
Bill & Heather Mooney
Alex Myers
John Rudolph
Domenico Scicchitano
Barbara Truman

Second Place Winners

Mr. & Mrs. David Adler
Marcy Amarnek
Deborah Brooks
Sheila Buckley
Fred & Nancy Clemens
Liz Donaghy
Joseph Dorman
Howard & Fred Edelstein
Carina Flaherty
Verne Gabin
Ivey Galitan
Charlie Heiser
Christine Houston
Nell Johnson
Deborah Kaplan
John Lindsay
Lynne Luttrell
Ernest Meyer
Mark Nolte
Yuen Ho-Lin Ng
Ivan Rosa
Joyce Paul
Richard Rutherford
Eva Sanders
Michael Subick

Third Place Winners

Linda Battleman
Lenora Berson
Alfred Bilstein
Emily Byrd-Reeves
John Caniz
Francisca M. Dales
Jack DeWaele
Ivey Galitan
Elvira Gibson
Lillie Gorham
Kim Hanley

Ann Reed

Craig Heim/Jean Miller
Edna Jones
Sidney Kanefsky
Amy L. Kitzen
Herb Levine
Olga McGarity
Kate Maus/Steven Wren
Edward & Mable Parker
J. D. Paternoster
Les & Mildred Sharpless
Joan Smalarz
Ann Stanley
Lu Szumsky
Vashti Thomas
Anna Maria Vona

Honorable Mention

Carl Andresen
Marsha Bailey/David Hanly
Gladys Barth
Stephanie & David Costello
Marie Ferraro
Lise Funderburg
Donna Hoult
Zelma Gorham
Maria Louisa Marciano
Sharon Marzocco
Denise McGiboney
Alan McHale
Joan McPeak
Steven Nawalany
George E. Price
Alfred Rizzio
Tom Schoonmaker
Ellen Siegel
George & Ann Spaeth
James Stanley
Mark & Ruth Valentine
Joe Wesolowski
Jackie Williams

Suzanne Wheeling

Top:
Alison McDowell

Left:
John Rudolph's garden

Far Left:
Victoria Fox's garden

Philadelphia Green Expands Vacant Land Management Efforts

Since the late 1990s, Philadelphia Green has worked to address the growing problem of urban land left vacant by decades of declining industrial activity and population loss. To "stabilize" land until a permanent use can be found, Philadelphia Green developed a "clean and green" approach that involves removing debris, planting grass, and installing fencing or trees to discourage trash dumping.

In the city's New Kensington neighborhood, for example, Philadelphia Green worked with the local community development corporation and residents to transform 50% of the neighborhood's 1,100 vacant lots into low-maintenance, attractive green spaces. In 2000, Philadelphia Green was hired by the Philadelphia Empowerment Zone, a federally funded revitalization project, to use the same approach on vacant land along American Street in another part of North Philadelphia.

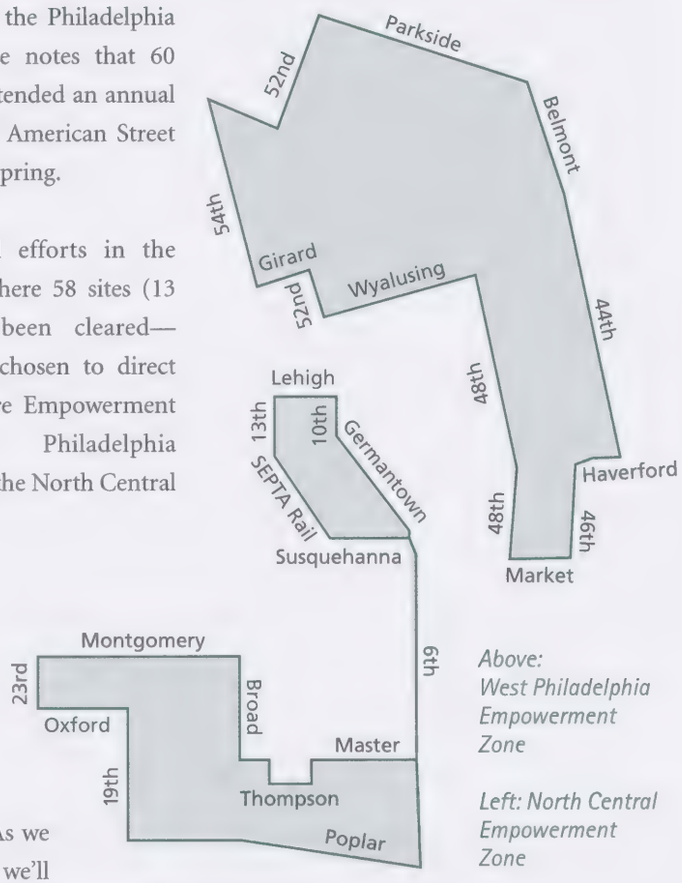
While some lots will remain permanent open space, the Philadelphia Empowerment Zone's main goal is to create attractive sites for new development. "People don't want to invest in areas that are not clean and safe," says Catherine Califano, economic development director for the Philadelphia Empowerment Zone. She notes that 60 developers and realtors attended an annual breakfast and tour of the American Street Empowerment Zone last spring.

Based on its successful efforts in the American Street area—where 58 sites (13 acres of land) have been cleared—Philadelphia Green was chosen to direct similar work in two more Empowerment Zones: the West Philadelphia Empowerment Zone and the North Central Empowerment Zone.

Bob Grossmann, Philadelphia Green program manager, explains that the new initiative will rely heavily on community involvement and input. "As we did on American Street, we'll work with city services and private contractors to clear and seed some of the larger sites," he says. "But we plan to also work closely with community residents, involving them directly in the 'cleaning and greening' process."

Each of the community organizations will employ a part-time organizer who will help identify sites and organize volunteers, and each Empowerment Zone will have its own steering committee. Planning is now underway, with most of the work to be completed in fall 2003.

In addition, Philadelphia Green has received support from the William Penn Foundation, a part of a recent two-year grant, to continue its vacant land work in partnership with the city's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, an ambitious effort to eliminate blight and revitalize neighborhoods. New sites have been identified in three locations—Strawberry Mansion in North Philadelphia, near 8th & Berks Streets in North Philadelphia, and near 54th Street & Lancaster Avenue in West Philadelphia.



Above: West Philadelphia Empowerment Zone

Left: North Central Empowerment Zone

Maitreyi Roy, Philadelphia Green's associate director for community greening, hopes the new projects will build increased momentum for revitalization: "We're excited about these opportunities to demonstrate the positive impact that greening can have, not only on the appearance of neighborhoods, but also in creating a renewed sense of possibility."

– Jane Carroll

Note: Please see next page for information about Philadelphia Green's new manual on reclaiming vacant lots.

Volunteer at the 2003 Philadelphia Flower Show

There are still a few openings for volunteers at the 2003 Show, March 2–9, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. If you would like to be part of the team, please contact Betty Greene by **January 10** at (215) 988-8826 or *bgreene@pennhort.org* We will contact you with more information.

Free Lecture Series

PHS and the Wagner Free Institute of Science will again co-sponsor two courses this winter and early spring: Families of Flowering Plants, and Wildflowers in Fairmount Park. These courses are free and open to the public and will be held in the PHS Auditorium. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required. Registered students will receive a syllabus and reading list as part of their registration acknowledgement. **Space is Limited. To register, please call (215) 763-6529, ext. 23.**

Families of Flowering Plants

Tuesday, January 21 and five Mondays through February 24, 6:30 pm
(Please note the first class is Tuesday, and the rest are on Monday)
PHS Auditorium

The diversity in flowering plants is enormous; nearly 250,000 species have been named. Recognition of species can be a difficult task, even for the expert. However, species have been grouped into about 400 larger taxonomic units known as families. Families usually share leaf, flower, and fruit characteristics that allow for easy recognition. The ability to assign unknown plants to the correct family is a useful skill for anyone interested in plant identification and culture.

This course, taught by Professor Karen Snetselaar, will survey several dozen plant families with important representatives in our forests and gardens. In addition to identifying common features, the course will look at representative members of each family based on their economic and ecological importance.

Karen Snetselaar is associate professor of biology at St. Joseph's University and professor of biology at the Wagner Free Institute of Science. Her specialty is botany and plant diseases.

Wildflowers in Fairmount Park

Monday, March 31 – Monday, April 28, 6:30 pm.
There will be two field trips on Saturdays in April.
PHS Auditorium

Learn the wildflowers of Fairmount Park through a series of five lectures at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and two field trips in Fairmount Park, under the expert guidance of Professor Alfred E. Schuyler. The lectures will emphasize characteristics useful for identifying wildflowers and determining the groups to which they belong. In the field, we will identify as many wildflowers as time permits.

Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler is associated with the Wagner Free Institute of Science, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research.

Philadelphia Green Vacant Lot Manual

PHS's Philadelphia Green program has compiled a **how-to** manual for reclaiming vacant lots in the city. ***Reclaiming Vacant Lots: A Philadelphia Green Guide*** outlines Philadelphia Green's basic "clean & green" approach to managing vacant land, including clearing debris, planting grass and trees and installing fences. The manual also provides information on settling ownership issues, developing a site plan, and outlining a long-term maintenance strategy. Supplies are limited, order today!

Order Form

Reclaiming Vacant Lots: A Philadelphia Green Guide # copies ____ @ $4/each = (total) ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Please enclose a check payable to PHS. ***Note: Please do not send cash; please write "Reclaiming Vacant Lots" on your check or money order. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.***

Mail form to:
PHS, Attn: Sonia Castro, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 PG News

2003 Kids Grow Expo Workshops

Teachers and other adults who work with children are invited to two free workshops to prepare for the competitive classes in the 2003 Kids Grow Expo:

Tuesday, January 28, 3:45 pm
(horticultural entries)

Tuesday, March 25, 3:45 pm
(artistic entries)

For more information, please contact Kay Gramiak at (215) 988-8861 or *kgramiak@pennhort.org*

New Faces on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board

Philadelphia Green extends its heartfelt thanks to those members of the Advisory Board who completed their terms at the end of last year. We appreciate their dedication and service as we welcome new members, who begin serving in 2003.

Departing Advisory Board members

Rosina Feldman
Johanna Fine
Tom Homer
Dorsha Mason
Sam Williams

New Advisory Board members

Heather Ascher
James Flaherty
Joanne Killebrew
Audrey Lisowski
Johnnie Mae Parker
Tarik Riley
Roy Shelley
James Stanley

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General admission

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$24 on Opening Sunday (March 2)
$22 weekends and $20 weekdays

Children aged 2 to 12:

$10 (good any day)

Advance tickets: $18

Group tickets (20 or more people):

$17.50

*Sales Outlets: Flower Show tickets are available online at ***www.theflowershow.com*** and at participating PNC Bank branches, AAA Mid-Atlantic branches, ACME Markets, Borders Book Stores, Clemens Markets, Eckerd, SEPTA ticket sales outlets, Smith & Hawken stores, local garden centers, nurseries and florists. Check availability with individual outlets; service charges may apply.

For more information, please visit the website or call (215) 988-8899.

Philadelphia Green Brunch

Join us on **Sunday, March 9 at 11:30 am** for the annual Philadelphia Green Brunch at the Flower Show. Your brunch ticket ($28) includes Flower Show admission. For reservations, call Kay Gramiak at (215) 988-8861.

Philadelphia Green at the Flower Show

This year's **Philadelphia Green exhibit** at the Flower Show will feature a multimedia presentation that looks at the program's wide range of activities. "The display will not only feature eye-popping visuals, but will also emphasize to the viewing public that their purchase of Flower Show tickets helps support Philadelphia Green," says PHS's Flossie Narducci.

The exhibit will feature four areas—public landscapes in the city's downtown area and at its entryways, education programs, community parks and gardens, and Philadelphia Green's efforts to transform vacant, abandoned land into green spaces.

Each section will feature a video as well as large "photo murals." Plus, the exhibit's architectural features will allow the visitor to peer in from several different angles. "We feel this design will pique the interest of the viewer," says Flossie, adding that the "openness" of the space will help invite people to explore the entire display. Several structural components of the exhibit will be suspended from the ceiling, including several "windows" filled with colorful, overflowing window-box planters.

Once again, PHS extends generous thanks to the F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. for sponsoring the Philadelphia Green exhibit at the Flower Show. The exhibit will be located on the main Show floor, just to the left of the PHS Flower Show Shoppe and Membership booths.

And be sure to stop by the **Gold Medal Plant exhibit** at the Show, which showcases winners of PHS Gold Medal Plant Awards and recognizes outstanding trees, shrubs, vines and groundcovers for use in Zones 5–7. This year's display features an educational "walk-through" layout, with plenty of handouts on these wonderful woody plants. Volunteers from the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association (PLNA) will be on hand to answer questions about Gold Medal winners as well as about PHS and PLNA.

See you at the Show!

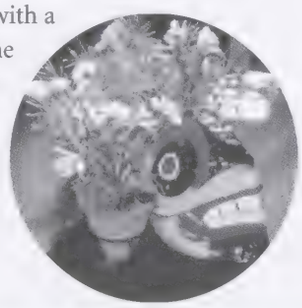
2002 Gold Medal Plant Exhibit

Behind the Scenes: Norris Square & the Flower Show

Pete Prown

In the Norris Square neighborhood of North Philadelphia, dressmakers from the community organization Group Motivo have been creating costumes for dancers who will perform the traditional Puerto Rican island dance, the bamba, at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Here, community leader Iris Brown of the Norris Square Neighborhood Project shares a laugh with a costume model.



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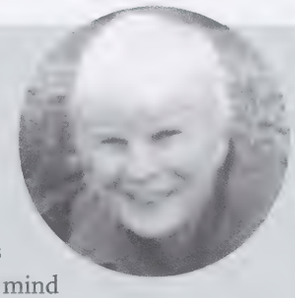
IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Lee Gutman



Lee Gutman keeps a small garden at her home in Society Hill in Philadelphia, but she considers the Azalea Garden her "second home." Chair of volunteers for the Azalea Garden, located directly behind the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Lee has been working in the garden ever since 1989.

Back then, she lived in the city's Art Museum section, and representatives from PHS attended a meeting of her neighborhood civic association to solicit volunteers to help restore the long-neglected garden to its former glory. "They showed pictures of how the garden looked back in the 1950s, before it began to deteriorate. I wanted to be part of the effort to bring it back," recalls Lee, who quickly became a "charter volunteer."

As volunteer chair, one of Lee's most important jobs is to welcome newcomers and make them feel like part of the group. She often phones first-time volunteers to invite them back for the next activity. Workdays are held on the third Saturday of each month from April through November.

Lee's dedication to the garden caught the attention of fellow volunteer Marc Zaharchuk, who nominated her to serve on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board about four years ago. "It's something I enjoy very much," says Lee. She notes that serving on the Board gives her a broad view of Philadelphia Green's work throughout the city. "It's just mind boggling to see how much good work is being done in neighborhoods all over town."

Lee also volunteers at the Philadelphia Flower Show, putting in a few hours at the Philadelphia Green exhibit and donning a pink apron as an "Infonet" volunteer, directing visitors and answering questions. Last year for the first time, she also worked at the PHS Shoppe at the Harvest Show.

But her first love is the Azalea Garden. Moving to the other end of town did nothing to dampen her enthusiasm for this lovely urban refuge. (Several other long-time volunteers even travel into the city from out of town to work in the garden.)

"I've learned so much about gardening along the way," Lee says, "but the biggest bonus is that I've made a lot of good friends. It's a volunteer job that I love—one I don't want to give up. It's something I really look forward to."

– Jane Carroll

Temple University Ambler's EarthFest 2003

On April 22, PHS will participate in Temple University Ambler's *EarthFest 2003*, a celebration of Earth Day that will promote environmental awareness using sustainable concepts, methods, and practices to protect and preserve our natural environment. This year's theme is "Sustaining Our Communities."

"This event will open up a wide range of ideas for home gardeners and individuals working in the green industry. It will also highlight a field of possible careers to students and the public that they are not typically exposed to," says Temple Ambler's Lisa Blum.

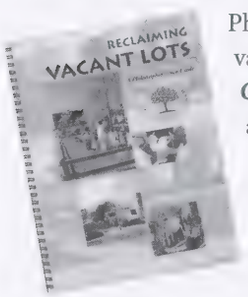
As part of *EarthFest*, PHS will present its **Gold Medal Plant** exhibit. Since 1978, PHS's Gold Medal Plant Award program has recognized woody plants of outstanding merit. These plants, often under-used, are evaluated and chosen for their superb eye appeal, performance, and hardiness. Staff will be on hand to provide information about **Philadelphia Green** and its various activities.

There will also be a special "Gardener's Market" at the campus greenhouse—a plant sale offering primarily native and rare plants and shrubs—as well as a "museum" of horticulture and landscape architecture memorabilia.

Hosted by the Center for Sustainable Communities, this outdoor festival will be held on **Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, 2003, from 10 am–6 pm, rain or shine** at the Temple Ambler campus.

For more information about *EarthFest 2003* visit *www.ambler.temple.edu*, call (215) 283-1291, or email *earthfest@temple.edu.*

Philadelphia Green Vacant Lot Manual



Philadelphia Green has compiled a **how-to** manual for reclaiming vacant lots in the city. ***Reclaiming Vacant Lots: A Philadelphia Green Guide*** outlines Philadelphia Green's basic "clean & green" approach to managing vacant land, including clearing debris, planting grass and trees and installing fences. The manual also provides information on settling ownership issues, developing a site plan, and outlining a long-term maintenance strategy. Supplies are limited, order today!

Order Form

Reclaiming Vacant Lots: A Philadelphia Green Guide # copies ____ @ $4/each = (total) ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Please enclose a check payable to PHS. ***Note: Please do not send cash; please write "Reclaiming Vacant Lots" on your check or money order. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.***

Mail form to:
PHS, Attn: Sonia Castro, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 PG News

Save the Date

Kids Grow Expo, May 5–9 Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park

Bright sunny days, fluffy white clouds, hurricane strength winds, torrential rain, terrible twisters, the brilliance of lightening erupting in the sky—all are part of the ever changing phenomenon we call weather. The theme for this year's Kids Grow Expo is *Weather Watch.*

The **Kids Grow Expo** is a horticultural exhibition by and for school age children in the greater Philadelphia region. Sponsored by PHS, the Expo creates an awareness of horticulture and the natural environment and encourages active participation of youth in growing, gardening and related activities.

The Expo includes educational exhibits, service learning projects and competitive classes as a part of its Junior Flower Show. Available to visitors are a number of interactive activity stations, demonstrations, and tours of the Treehouse and grounds of the Horticulture Center.

For more information about the Kids Grow Expo, contact Flossie Narducci at (215) 988-8897 or *fnarducc@pennhort.org*

Workshop for Teachers

How to enter the Kids Grow Expo

Tuesday, March 25, 4 pm
PHS Headquarters
To register, contact Kay Gramiak at (215) 988-8861 or *kgramiak@pennhort.org*

Celebrating Neighborhood Parks

In December, volunteer park groups from across the city gathered for the 6th annual **Party for the Parks** held by Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project. This event recognizes and celebrates the dedication and efforts of hundreds of volunteers who have brought life to neighborhood parks throughout the city.

The Parks Revitalization Project is a dynamic partnership involving residents, the Department of Recreation, and Philadelphia Green. In the past decade, this effort has grown from three parks to over 50. Because there are now so many people involved, the party was moved from its home at City Hall to *Occasions by Galdos* in South Philadelphia.

Dinner and dancing were a large part of the evening, but the highlight was the recognition of terrific volunteers. "Volunteer of the Year" awards were handed out by 21 park groups to their outstanding representatives (see list). And Distinguished Service Awards went to Department of Recreation employees Patrick Lamb and Tyrone Foster.

Park volunteers and PG staff also presented Recreation Commissioner Victor N. Richard III with a symbolic check for $802,500, representing the monetary value of the 50,000 (!) documented hours of labor and service from volunteers in 2002. Those many hours were spent sweeping, painting, planting trees, organizing concerts and youth events, and so much more.

PARTY FOR THE PARKS

"The park groups and Department of Recreation staff give so much to the neighborhoods of Philadelphia," reflects Jeff Tober, Philadelphia Green's parks project manager. "This party was a way to thank and honor them, and build momentum towards an even better 2003."

– Paul Bonfanti

John Gannon

Foreground, left to right: Recreation Commissioner Victor N. Richard III, Susan Ongirski of Campbell Square, and Mike Groman, director of Philadelphia Green.

2002 Park Volunteers of the Year

Bardascino Park	Daryn Edwards
Barkan Park	Mark Mendenhall
Campbell Square	Susan Ongirski
Carroll Park	Lucille Jennings
Cliveden Park	Ruth Thomas
Connell Park	Jameal Cuffy
Fotteral Square	Carl Fulton
Gorgas Park	Jim Farrell
Howell Park	Tom Arthurs
Jefferson Square	Paulina DeMarco-Davis
Konrad Square	Millie Kelly
Malcolm X Memorial Park	Helen Jones Goodwin
McPherson Square	Wilfredo Cruz
Mifflin Square	Craig Heim
Norris Square	Thomas Hood
Stinger Square	Nasir Wilson
Vernon Park	Ruth Harris
Wharton Square	Gloria Henry
Wissinoming Park	Pete Tweed
Womrath Park	Debbie O'Malley

PHS launches City Gardening Series

Through a generous grant from the William Penn Foundation, PHS recently launched the **Philadelphia Green City Gardening Series** as part of its efforts to enhance the city's green spaces. Over the next 18 months, we will offer 75 classes on various city gardening topics to increase the know-how of novice and experienced gardeners alike. PHS will run these sessions in various city neighborhoods in partnership with community organizations.

"We want more people in more neighborhoods to get on the gardening bandwagon so that Philadelphia truly realizes founder William Penn's vision of a 'Green Countrie Towne,'" says PHS outreach manager Patricia Schrieber.

Do you know of any horticultural experts? We are looking to identify potential speakers who are knowledgeable about city gardening topics. We also want to spread the word to interested gardeners about upcoming classes. If you want to learn more about the Philadelphia Green City Gardening Series as a potential speaker or attendee, please contact Patricia Schrieber at (215) 988-8841 or *pschrieb@pennhort.org*

Look for updates and more details in future issues of the *Philadelphia Green News.*

Volunteer at Center City Garden Sites

Philadelphia Green works to revitalize important public landscapes in the city's downtown area, but it's volunteers who help to keep them looking their best. Regularly scheduled gardening days are held from April through November. Gardening days are rescheduled in the event of heavy rain. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Joan Kapczynski at (215) 988-8865 or *jkapczyn@pennhort.org*

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Join the *Museum Green* volunteers on the grounds of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Saturday, May 17 and Saturday, October 4, 9 am–noon. We'll meet in the East Courtyard.

Azalea Garden

3rd Saturday of each month (9 am–noon)
Help maintain the lovely Azalea Garden, located directly behind the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The first garden day is April 19. *[Note: the May workday is on the 10th.]*

"Ribbon of Gold"

2nd Saturday of each month (8–11 am)
The Ribbon of Gold includes two sites—Eastern State Penitentiary and the median plantings along Spring Garden Street. For the Penitentiary, we'll meet at the main entrance on Fairmount Avenue near 21st Street. For Spring Garden Street, we'll meet at 19th & Spring Garden. The fun starts April 12!

Eastern State Penitentiary

John Gannon

Pete Prown

Gas Station Garden

Gas Station Garden

2nd Wednesday of each month (5:30–7 pm)
Come to 20th & Arch Streets, across from PHS Headquarters, and join Logan Square neighbors to help care for this sunny gem of a garden (on the site of a former gas station!). We'll first meet on April 9. *[Note: the November workday is on Saturday the 15th at 9 am.]*

Triangle Garden

2nd Saturday of each month (9–10:30 am)
This buoyant garden just off the Vine Street expressway welcomes you to the Logan Square neighborhood. We'll meet on site at 23rd & Winter Streets (one block north of Race Street) for the first gardening day on April 12.

Philadelphia Green Holds Skills Conference

On Saturday, January 25, 100 city greening enthusiasts braved the cold to attend the **Philadelphia Green Skills Conference**, held at the Arch Street Meeting House. The attendees were volunteers from neighborhood parks, community gardens and public landscape projects, members of Garden Tenders and Tree Tenders groups, and representatives from community development corporations. This annual event was co-sponsored by the Neighborhood Gardens Association.

"The theme of this year's conference was about resources—how to identify them in your community and how to go out and get them," says Paul Bonfanti of Philadelphia Green.

The first session of the day dealt with "Asset-Based Community Development," a philosophy that urges communities to focus on their resources rather than problems. Another session focused on working with your elected officials. Here, Councilman Michael Nutter fielded questions on how to build an effective relationship with elected officials and what can be accomplished through these connections. Other sessions dealt with event planning and fundraising "from A to Z."

"It was a wonderful gathering of like-minded folks who volunteer their time to sustain a healthy quality of life for the city—from gardens to parks to street trees," reflects Philadelphia Green's Paco Verin.

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(Note: all sessions will be at PHS, 100. N. 20th Street; these activities are available to Philadelphia residents only.)

Garden Tenders Basic Training

Learn how to start your own community garden.

Two sessions:

Saturday, March 22, 9 am–3 pm
Thursday, March 27, 5:30–8:30 pm

For more info, contact Sally McCabe at (215) 988-8846.

Garden Tenders Basic Training

Two sessions:

Saturday, May 17, 9 am–3 pm
Wednesday, May 21, 5:30–8:30 pm

For more info, contact Sally McCabe at (215) 988-8846.

Tree Tenders Bare Root Training

Discover how to plant and care for bare root trees.

One session:

Thursday, March 13, 6 – 8 pm

Please RSVP by March 10 to Mindy Maslin at (215) 988-8844.

Tree Tenders Basic Training

Learn how to care for your neighborhood's trees.

Four sessions:

Wednesdays, June 11, 18, & 25, 6–9 pm
Saturday, June 14, 9 am–1 pm

For more info, contact Mindy Maslin at (215) 988-8844.

Garden Tenders workshop

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org

(215) 988-8800

March/April 2003

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Ten Years of Remaking Philadelphia's Neighborhood Parks

Important Notice from Jane Pepper: see page 3

The year is 1993. Many of Philadelphia's neighborhoods suffer from economic decline, and the neighborhood parks show the effects dramatically. Parks that were intended as centers of community life have become havens for illegal activity. Children who should be playing in the parks are told to stay out of them—even in broad daylight. Trees that once provided shade and color are now too dangerous to walk under, lest a dead branch should fall. Residents refer to their local park as "Needle Park" or "The Dump."

John Gannon

An important link has been made between the improvement of parks and the wholesale transformation of neighborhoods.

Fast forward to 2003. Many of these same parks have made a remarkable comeback and are lifting up their surrounding communities. Barbecues, Arbor Day celebrations, festivals, plantings, memorial gatherings, and concerts fill the parks with new sounds of life. Children's laughter, adult conversation, spring colors and nature's beauty have all returned. Community groups team with government, businesses, foundations, and their neighborhoods to generate funding and support for the parks. An important link has been made between the improvement of parks and the wholesale transformation of neighborhoods.

How has this transformation occurred in just 10 years? Working with the William Penn Foundation, Philadelphia Green launched the Parks Revitalization Project in 1993. Partnering with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and community groups from around the city, the project began with three distressed community parks—Norris Square in North Philadelphia, Vernon Park in Germantown, and Wharton Square in South Philadelphia—helping neighbors create groups called "friends of the park" to serve as caretakers and advocates. Friends groups envisioned what they wanted their parks to be, and the partners began to make it happen.

Based on the initial success at the first three sites, the project quickly expanded. More parks came on board and more improvements—such as new playgrounds, pavillions, trees, and gardens—began to appear. The Recreation Department hired seasonal maintenance staff, complementing the volunteer efforts. In short, the parks became centers of neighborhood life again, bringing people from different backgrounds together and strengthening communities. Forty-five parks now participate in the project. These parks have a sense of pride and stewardship that is echoed in the words of Vicki Burks, a volunteer with Cliveden Park in Germantown: "This is ours and we want it to be beautiful."

As the Parks Revitalization Project marks its 10th anniversary, a host of efforts will continue throughout the year to maintain and increase the momentum, celebrating the accomplishments of the last 10 years—and looking forward to the next 10 years— of this innovative and powerful partnership.

– Paul Bonfanti and John Gannon

The Parks Revitalization Project is grateful for the generous support of the William Penn Foundation, Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds, National Recreation Foundation, Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, and Hooper Brothers.

NGA's 1st Annual Green City Month

The Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust (NGA) announces its first annual Green City Month in June 2003. NGA, in cooperation with PHS and the Penn State Urban Gardening Program, is planning a series of workshops, tours, and related events highlighting Philadelphia's green treasures.

The events celebrate the 24 land-trusted community gardens and will raise awareness about the importance of community green space in our neighborhoods. For a complete listing of Green City Month activities, please check the NGA website at *www.ngalandtrust.org* or call Margot Berg or Terry Mushovic at 215-988-8797 for a calendar of events.

WORKSHOP: Designing Your City Garden

Two Sessions:
Wednesday, May 7 & 14, 6–8 pm
PHS Auditorium

Attention city gardeners! Do you feel daunted by the challenges of gardening in the city? This two-part workshop is especially designed for city gardeners, or for gardeners working with small spaces, and it will lay the groundwork for creating your personal outdoor paradise.

In the first session, **Michael LoFurno** will examine the distinct conditions of urban gardening, including poor soil, minimum light or shade, and water availability. He will look at the challenges of creating a pleasing vista when surrounded by walls, as well as discuss how to measure your property, make a scale drawing, and determine your light conditions, wind direction, soil type, and sight lines. In the second session, you will work in small groups on your own garden design. Fee: $50 for PHS members, $70 for non-members. Limit 25.

Michael LoFurno is a registered Landscape Architect who has been practicing in the Philadelphia area for 19 years. He is an accomplished gardener who has won awards from the National Council of Garden Clubs, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. His own city garden has won numerous awards in PHS's City Gardens Contest.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Greg Cojulun

A journey into West Philadelphia reveals a true urban oasis at 51st & Pine Streets. Malcolm X Memorial Park is comprised of an entire city block, and these days it's filled with activity. What had once declined into an overlooked and underused city space—with its crumbling walkways, neglected trees, and trashy interior—has blossomed once again into a lively community park and gathering place.

Greg Cojulun is one of the people who helped guide the park back to its current vibrancy. Since retiring from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board in the late 1980s, he's been anything but idle. For the past eight years, he has served as president the Friends of Malcolm X Memorial Park. "Greg's always meeting and greeting lots of people in the park," observes Philadelphia Green's C. R. Robinson, adding that "people call him 'the Mayor' or 'the Ambassador of the Park.'" Greg and his team bring the community part of the equation to a partnership that includes Philadelphia Green and the Philadelphia Department of Recreation.

"The Recreation Department has been tremendous," says Greg, who adds that his group has "a wonderful partnership" with Philadelphia Green, which has provided the know-how and resources for things like garden tools, flowers, seeds, planters, and a check-up of the park's tree population.

Serving on the Parks Revitalization Project's Parks Steering Committee (which includes representatives from the various partner parks) allows Greg to share the experiences of his friends group and to listen to what other folks have to say about their own parks. "It's been helpful to learn about what other parks are doing throughout the city, and the different ways that people get things done," he says.

Thus far, things that have "gotten done" at Malcolm X Memorial Park include a new playground, benches, and a much-needed large gazebo. And importantly, others have contributed to the park's resurgence. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has run safety workshops for the neighborhood kids and has funded the park's play equipment. Teachers from local schools have stepped forward with their 3rd and 4th grade classes to take part in an after-school "Park Patrol" to help keep the park clean. "And city councilwoman Jannie Blackwell has been a big help as well," adds Greg.

So what's going on in the park? On May 17, a birthday celebration for Malcolm X is planned, and the park's Thursday night jazz concert series starts May 29 and continues every other week through the summer. On August 16, visit the park as it hosts the 2nd Annual Gospel Fest.

Come enjoy Malcolm X Memorial Park. After all, there's a good chance that you'll be greeted by the smiling face of Greg Cojulun.

– John Gannon

A Message from Jane Pepper Regarding the Harvest Show

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is an organization with multiple programs, events and activities, and our board of directors, the Council, periodically considers whether the things we do effectively meet our mission. In detailed conversations over the past year, the Council and PHS management have looked closely at the Harvest Show, and after much discussion, have decided not to hold the Harvest Show in the future. This year, the Harvest Show was scheduled for September 12–14, at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park.

Our reasons are many. For several years, attendance at the Harvest Show has been declining, despite extensive efforts to increase the number of visitors. In surveys, many people mentioned the Harvest Show location, which has limited parking and is especially hard to reach for those who use public transportation, as a significant challenge to their attendance. In recent years, we studied alternative sites, but none provided convenient transportation in a location that was both suitable for the Harvest Show and affordable for PHS. Surveys showed that another reason for declining attendance has been the increased number of activities available to area residents on fall weekends. Those few weekends between Labor Day and the onset of cold weather seem to be among the busiest of the year, especially for visitors with children. Participation in the Show has also declined as fewer people cultivate vegetable gardens, whose produce was once a highlight of the Harvest Show.

These are challenging economic times, when PHS resources must be carefully allocated to be sure we are supporting programs that best meet our mission. PHS Council and staff members have taken this step only after serious consideration, knowing that the Harvest Show has been an annual tradition that many people have enjoyed over the years. We encourage Harvest Show enthusiasts to continue their participation in the many activities that PHS and, in particular, its Philadelphia Green program sponsor throughout the year.

– Jane G. Pepper, PHS President

Attention City Gardeners! Enter the 2003 City Gardens Contest

Be a Contestant:

If you garden in Philadelphia, you qualify to enter the City Gardens Contest. Amateur gardeners compete in a number of different categories from flower to vegetable to container gardens. **Just fill out the form below and mail to: City Gardens Contest, PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 by June 10.** Good luck!

Win Great Prizes

Winners receive $50, $25, and $10 gift certificates. All winners receive a one-year membership to The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Be a Judge:

Spend a July day visiting gardens as large as a city block or as tiny as a backyard patio, and help choose the winners! (Note: you do not have to be a Philadelphia resident to be a judge.)

June 10 is the deadline to become a judge or to enter as a contestant. For more information, please contact Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897 or send an email to *specialevents@pennhort.org*

City Gardens Contest Entry Form

PG News

Name:_____

Address: _____

Address of garden: _____

Home phone:_____Work phone: _____

Email:_____

Check appropriate category:

Individual Gardens

- ☐ Individual Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Individual Flower Garden
- ☐ Combination Flower/Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Individual Container Garden
- ☐ Child's Garden

Community Gardens

- ☐ Community Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Community Flower/Sitting Garden
- ☐ Combination Vegetable/Flower Garden
- ☐ Children's Garden
- ☐ "Garden Block" with window boxes and sidewalk planters
- ☐ "The Greenest Block in Town" (street trees/front yards)

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Please note: These activities are available to Philadelphia residents only. **All events are free.** For a complete list of activities, please contact Dawn Johns at 215-988-8845 or *djohns@pennhort.org.*

May

Philadelphia Green City Gardening Series: Low-Maintenance Gardening

Saturday, May 10, 1–2 pm
Lehigh Avenue Branch Library
6th Street & Lehigh Avenue
For more information, contact
Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872

PG City Gardening Series: Attracting Birds with Liz Dailey

Saturday, May 10, 12–1 pm
John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, 84th & Lindbergh Blvd.
For more information, contact
Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872

Garden Tenders Basic Training

Saturday, May 17, 9 am–3 pm
Wednesday, May 21, 5:30–8:30 pm
PHS, 100 N. 20th Street
For more information, contact
Sally McCabe at 215-988-8846

June

Philadelphia Green City Gardening Series: Organic Gardening

Monday, June 16, 7–8 pm
Falls of Schuylkill Free Library (East Falls)
Warden Drive & Midvale Avenue
For more information, contact
Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872

Tree Tenders Basic Training

Wednesdays, June 11, 18, 25, 6–9 pm
Saturday, June 14, 9 am–1 pm
PHS, 100 N. 20th Street
For more information, contact
Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

From Prison to Paradise: Philadelphia Green Helps Recreate a School Landscape

John Gannon

above/top: *students planting in the raised beds in front of McKinley School;* **above/bottom**: *Philadelphia Eagles staff, supervised by George Ely & Associates and Playword Systems, help construct the new playground;* **below right**: *a football fan gets an Eagle's autograph.*

Who would ever think of describing an elementary school as a prison? Yet that's how some people saw the McKinley School in eastern North Philadelphia, with its gray walls, chain link fencing, and asphalt playground. Debora Carrera, McKinley's principal, explains, "People understand that great things happen inside, but you would never know that by looking at the school's exterior."

As part of the School District of Philadelphia's Campus Park Initiative, the grounds of McKinley School are undergoing a major transformation. Through this initiative, Philadelphia Green developed a master plan for a new landscape at McKinley. Guided by a committee of students, teachers, staff, residents and local community organizations, the master plan calls for enhancements at the school's main entrances, a new playground, teaching gardens, murals and an outdoor performance space.

The project's collaborative spirit attracted the interest of the Eagles Youth Partnership and the Philadelphia Department of Recreation's Mural Arts Program (MAP). To "kick off" the project, Eagles players and staff held a day of community service at the school on June 5. They built a new playground, painted murals, made a mosaic bench, and created an outdoor classroom—all part of Philadelphia Green's master plan. Two teaching gardens, to be completed by the end of the summer, will be created through MAP's Mural Corp teen program, also in partnership with Philadelphia Green. Other major improvements by the School District are scheduled for this fall.

For Carrera, this project is "amazing, an experience of a lifetime. The collaboration involves a lot of flexibility, patience and commitment," she says. "But the end result will be a transformation of the school grounds from prison to paradise, creating a place where kids, families and employees enjoy coming together and being part of the neighborhood."

– Carl Haefner
Philadelphia Green Project Manager

John Gannon

Philadelphia Green Welcomes New Advisory Board Chair

Iris Brown has been named the new chair of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. Iris is a garden coordinator for the Norris Square Neighborhood Project, and she has been involved with Philadelphia Green for nearly 15 years. Recently, she served as a consultant for the 2003 Philadelphia Flower Show, "Festival de las Flores."

Community Gardeners Receive Tool Donation from Florian Ratchet-Cut

The **Philadelphia Flower Show** plays a vital role in supporting PHS's work through Philadelphia Green, and this year, one Flower Show Marketplace vendor has provided further assistance to city gardeners.

Florian Ratchet-Cut, of Plantsville, Connecticut has donated a variety of gardening tools to PHS's Philadelphia Green program for its "Growing Community Gardeners Initiative." Through this effort, Philadelphia Green offers support to selected groups whose gardens play a vital role in their communities.

Philadelphia Green works with the groups to conduct horticultural and group communication workshops, and trips to community gardens in New York City. Many thanks to Florian Ratchet-Cut for its contribution.

Communities Together Harvest Show

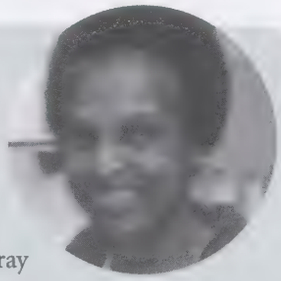
September 20, 2003

The Southwark/Queen Village Community Garden will host its first community-based, grassroots harvest celebration on Saturday, September 20, from **8:30 am–6 pm** (rain date, Sunday, September 21). Enter your garden's bounty, in all categories, to win prizes.

The show will also include harvest activities and horticultural demonstrations. All Philadelphia and surrounding suburban community gardens are invited to participate.

The Southwark/Queen Village Community Garden is located on Christian Street between 3rd and 4th Streets in South Philadelphia. **For more information, or if you would like to participate or volunteer at the show, please contact Audrey Lisowski at 215-238-9217 or lottiedottie64@hotmail.com, or Rochelle Manfra at 215-551-02492 or romanfra@att.net.**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Doris Gwaltney



Doris Gwaltney is someone who makes things happen. A community activist through and through, Doris serves on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and the PHS Council. She is also a member of the board of directors of Friends of Philadelphia Parks, as well as Philadelphia Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

But it is at Carroll Park in West Philadelphia where Doris' work is most visible. She has been president of the Carroll Park Neighbors Advisory Council since 1997. She was named Carroll Park's "Volunteer of the Year" in 1998 and has represented Philadelphia Green at the Urban Parks Institute Conference (organized by the Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund).

"A group of us come out every week to do general cleanup work in the park," says Doris, who has lived in the neighborhood for more than 50 years. "On Wednesdays, we get extra help from the Park Patrol made up of neighborhood students. We want our park to shine and sparkle, but it takes a lot of work, and every person helps."

Community volunteers built a new playground in 1998, and this year, the park received new shrubbery and re-paving at its outer corners, the "spray pool" fountain in the center of the park was spruced up, and two new oak trees were planted in the spring.

Doris adds, "We now have concerts on Thursday evenings during July and August. The park is really coming along so well. I'm very enthusiastic."

Doris notes that the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and the Philadelphia Police Department have been very supportive of the community's efforts. But it's clear that her passion and commitment have contributed greatly to improvements in Carroll Park, her community, and well beyond.

– Jane Carroll

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green: Color in the Garden

Monday, July 14, 7–8 pm
Lovett Memorial Library

Join us for an illustrated talk by **Toni Anne Flanigan** on enhancing the garden with color throughout the seasons. Examples of color themes and unusual color combinations will be included. Toni Ann Flanigan, owner of Philadelphia Gardens, is a specialist in the design, installation and maintenance of urban gardens.

This free workshop is geared for city gardeners, but is open to all. **The Lovett Memorial Library is located at 6945 Germantown Avenue in the Mount Airy section of Philadelphia.** For more information, please contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *mreynolds@pennhort.org.*

Funded by the William Penn Foundation, the Philadelphia Green City Gardening Series was created to increase the know-how of novice and experienced gardeners alike. Workshops are held in various city neighborhoods in partnership with community organizations.

Garden Tenders Basic Training

Sign up now for the next Garden Tenders Basic Training. Philadelphia Green's Garden Tenders project trains community groups to establish successful, self-sufficient gardens on vacant lots throughout the city. Offered four times a year, Garden Tenders Basic Training is a **nine-hour** course to help community groups plan and create their gardens with an emphasis on developing both horticultural and organizational skills.

The next training is scheduled for:
Tuesdays, July 8, 15, & 22, 5:30 – 8:30 pm
PHS, 100 N. 20th Street
For more information, please contact Sally McCabe at 215-988-8846 or *smccabe@pennhort.org.*

PHS Will Develop Open Space Plan for Center City Philadelphia

In 1682, William Penn envisioned Philadelphia as a Green Countrie Towne, in contrast to the crowded, unhealthy cities of seventeenth-century Europe. Today, many of Penn's originally designed green spaces still exist in Center City Philadelphia, such as the four "squares"—Rittenhouse Square, Washington Square, Logan Square (now Logan Circle), and Franklin Square—while new ones, like the Azalea Garden, have since been added. Green spaces like these contribute enormously to the quality of life in the city.

That's why The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program recently called for the creation of an **"Open Space Development Plan for Center City Philadelphia"** to create a broad, dynamic vision for Philadelphia's downtown green spaces and will be used to advocate for future investment in open space as a critical part of Center City's continuing revitalization. The plan will be used to promote open space as an important means to enhance city life and to attract new residents, encourage business investment, boost tourism and establish a national reputation for downtown Philadelphia as a green, inviting place to live, work, or visit.

Kathryn Newland, associate director of Philadelphia Green, says the aim is to "come up with a broad, integrated vision for redesigning and improving open space in Center City, looking at what we have to work with, what's missing, and what needs to be done to make the most of the opportunities out there."

Lager Raabe Skafte Landscape Architects, Inc. has been chosen to prepare the Open Space Plan, which will be funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The firm will identify development opportunities that are actively underway, as well as those that have been proposed and potential new ones, identifying key projects and setting priorities for their implementation. Other work team members include Fairmount Ventures, Inc.; Brown & Keener Urban Design; and the Melior Group.

The landscape architects will work with an advisory group consisting of representatives from various organizations that currently manage the city's green places. These include the Fairmount Park Commission, Center City District, the Managing Director's Office, and the Philadelphia Planning Commission, among others.

"We hope the Open Space Plan will not only imagine what can make Center City look really great," says Newland, "but also will identify concrete steps for making that vision a reality."

For more than 15 years, PHS's Philadelphia Green program has been promoting the benefits of a greener downtown environment, as well as higher standards in the development and management of Center City open space. Philadelphia Green has rehabilitated a number of highly visible public landscapes, including the Azalea Garden, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, John F. Kennedy Boulevard (between 20th Street and 30th Street Station), and the 26th Street Gateway from the airport. *– Jane Carroll*

The Community Garden Club of Awbury Arboretum Holds Plant Swap

Saturday, July 12, 10 am to 12:30 pm

The **Community Garden Club of Awbury Arboretum in Germantown** will hold its first annual **Plant Swap** on Saturday, July 12, from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Admission is free. Bring your extra plants and swap them for plants you don't have!

Here's how it works. You get a ticket for each plant you bring, and you use those tickets to swap for plants you want. Please bring rooted plants in pots. Bring bulbs and rhizomes in paper bags, and please label all pots or bags with plant name (if you know it) and your name. Other garden items may also be considered for swap.

The Plant Swap will be held at the Cope House at the Awbury Arboretum. Enter at Chew Avenue (between Haines St. and Walnut Lane). The Arboretum is accessible by SEPTA's 18 and XH bus routes or R7 train, Washington Lane station.

To register, please call 215-224-5872 by July 8. Please leave your name on the answering machine.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

City of Philadelphia Awards Greening Contract to PHS

As part of Mayor John Street's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, the City of Philadelphia recently announced the award of a one-year $4-million contract to PHS to implement a phase of its "Green City Strategy." To do this, PHS's Philadelphia Green will draw on its 30 years of experience in urban greening. The Strategy promotes attractive, well-kept green spaces as essential elements to a high quality of life in the urban environment—that a green city is a great city.

Margaret Funderburg

John Gannon

A newly cleaned vacant lot on Berks Street in North Philadelphia

Over the past three years, Philadelphia Green has provided consultation services to the city and conducted studies to determine how best to "stabilize" and maintain the vast amount of vacant land in Philadelphia until future uses for the land can be found. The city adopted the Strategy and will partner with PHS to carry out the work.

"We are pleased to form this exciting partnership with PHS," said Patricia Smith, director of the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative. "Mayor Street's administration is committed to greening as an important tool for revitalizing Philadelphia neighborhoods, and Philadelphia Green has developed an effective, proven strategy for getting the job done." The contract period for the greening work began this June and continues through June, 2004.

Philadelphia Green will work with many local and city-wide organizations in the city, targeting more than 1,000 vacant parcels in six neighborhoods—South, North Central, Eastern North, Frankford, East Mt. Airy and West Philadelphia/ Mantua. Lots will be cleared of trash and planted with trees and grass to stabilize them. In addition, Philadelphia Green will expand its citywide greening efforts by creating new gateways and gardens, planting street trees, and revitalizing more than 20 neighborhood parks. Lastly, it will support neighborhood-based organizations that will be performing vacant land maintenance.

Says J. Blaine Bonham, Jr., executive vice president of PHS, "This is an unprecedented commitment by the city, the strongest possible acknowledgement that greening is a critical part of creating a dynamic, thriving city with an enviable quality of life. We're thrilled to play such an important role in improving Philadelphia's neighborhoods."

– Jane Carroll

NGA Holds 1st "Green City Month"

The Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA) held the first "Green City Month" in June in cooperation with PHS's Philadelphia Green and the Penn State Urban Gardening Program. In spite of the rainy spring weather, participants enjoyed a variety of activities, including gardening workshops, a fundraising party and birdhouse auction at Seedy Acres Garden in Northern Liberties, and a Summer Solstice Trolley Tour of land-trust gardens. A Solstice party at the Southwark/Queen Village Garden in South Philadelphia gave visitors an opportunity to tour the garden and join the gardeners as they celebrated the arrival of summer. And on June 4, Whole Foods Market donated 5% of their proceeds to benefit NGA.

John Gannon

"We hope to make Green City Month an annual event," says Margot Berg, associate director of the Neighborhood Gardens Association. "It showcases NGA community gardens, celebrates the hard work of the gardeners, and raises awareness about the importance of green space in urban neighborhoods."

NGA is a non-profit urban land trust preserving community-managed gardens and open space in Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

As a part of Green City Month, community gardener Blanche Epps led a workshop on container plants at the Bel Arbor Community Garden in the Bella Vista neighborhood.

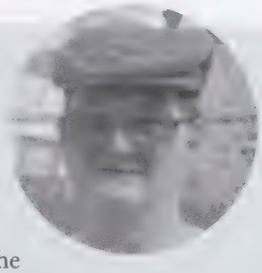
McLean Library Book Sale

Thursday, October 16
10 am – 5 pm

Mark your calendar for the McLean Library Book Sale, to be held Thursday, October 16 in the library. New gardening books at a discount and used gardening classics at exceptional prices will be available at this sale. The Library welcomes book donations for this event and will accept books until October 3. Special tours of the library will be offered during the day. For more information, please contact library assistant Josie Miller at 215-988-8772 or *jmiller@pennhort.org.*

The McLean Library is located at PHS headquarters, 20th & Arch Streets in Philadelphia, on the first floor.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Ed Elliss



In the last several years, Philadelphia Green has worked with the New Kensington Community Development Corporation and local residents to turn vacant land into gardens, parks, and side-yards. Traveling along Frankford Avenue, you'll find the inviting Belgrade Gardens, bordered by a post and rail fence covered with climbing roses. And, a stone's throw away, you'll even encounter some ducks (more on that in a minute…).

A primary force behind Belgrade Gardens is Ed Elliss, a 66-year-old retired businessman, member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, and Flower Show volunteer. "One hot summer day, I was clearing off this lot near my house," Ed muses, "And I met Paul Malvey of New Kensington CDC. He asked if I needed any help, and I got it."

After the CDC helped clear off the lot, it was up to Ed to get folks interested in helping to take it to the next level. "I started knocking on doors and got to know my neighbors," says Ed, and the seeds of Belgrade Gardens were sown. Today, this site is a welcoming entryway into the community and a regular entrant in PHS's City Gardens Contest.

Ah, but what about those ducks? In the small yard beside his house, Ed created his very own duck pond, which 15 of the creatures call home. "I wanted something aesthetically pleasing that would require less work than my lawn did … or so I thought," he chuckles. He didn't envision what a huge splash the ducks would make with the neighbors. People regularly bring their children—and even their dogs—to gaze at the ducks. "My neighbors have all kinds of nicknames for them," says Ed. "They're really not just my ducks anymore."

– Jane Carroll & John Gannon

Philly Gardeners Visit NYC

On June 21, 50 gardeners from Philadelphia Green's community gardening program traveled to New York City to celebrate summer solstice with Manhattan community gardeners.

The day's activities included a tour of five gardens in Manhattan's Lower East Side, where the Philadelphia delegation saw how community gardens can also be places for art and theater, as well as park-like havens open to the general public. At the Clinton Community Garden's annual Solstice Celebration, the group was treated to live music, food, and a tour of the garden. "We heard inspirational stories of how the garden's organizers rooted the garden in the hearts of the neighborhood," says Philadelphia Green's Eileen Gallagher. "And how the whole community came together to establish it as permanent green space."

In fact, nearly 200 community gardens have been preserved in New York City, made possible by a partnership involving city departments, local non-profits, and neighborhood organizations. The gardens are titled under the Department of Recreation, maintained by the community members, and are open to the public as park space during specified hours.

"Philadelphia's gardeners came home inspired with new ideas for their gardens and their neighborhoods," reflects Eileen. "It reinforced the value community gardens bring to our city, and further encouraged them to promote the gardens as essential assets to Philadelphia's future."

– Paco Verin

Opportunities for Funds

Here is a short resource list of local funding opportunities for environmental and horticultural endeavors. A more comprehensive list will appear soon on the PHS website.

- Free seeds for community planting projects: *www.america-the-beautiful.org/FreeSeeds_order_form.htm*
- Wal-Mart Community Involvement Program: tree planting; matching gift program (up to $2,000) through planning an event with your local Wal-Mart facility.
- Home Depot Foundation: $5,000 to $25,000 for environmental projects: *www.homedepotfoundation.org/hfus/enus/apply.html*
- Bread and Roses Community Fund: *www.breadrosesfund.org*

United Way Gifts

Fall marks the kick-off of the annual United Way campaign. Last year, PHS received nearly $21,000 in gifts through the United Way Donor Option program—double the amount we received in previous years. Many thanks to those who chose to direct their United Way funds to PHS.

This year, please consider making a United Way gift to PHS once again. Simply note our **Donor Option ID #06197** on your United Way pledge card for 2004. Your contribution will help support the Society's urban greening program, Philadelphia Green, which works with communities throughout Philadelphia to beautify neighborhoods, reclaim vacant land, enhance public parks, and preserve open green space.

"Tree Tenders" Wanted

The city's street trees need extra care to survive a decade of drought and extended heat waves. Philadelphia residents can learn how to provide this tender loving care by becoming "Tree Tenders" in a free training course offered by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. This 12-hour course covers urban stresses on trees, and includes basic planting, pruning, tree pit care, and tree identification. Groups of four or more who attend all sessions receive special tree tending tools and benefits.

The next training will occur on three Wednesday evenings in October (Oct 8, 15 & 22) at PHS, 100 N. 20th St., with a hands-on picnic workshop on Saturday, October 18. To apply, contact Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844, *mmaslin@pennhort.org* or through the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*

Save the Date

Fall For Your Park, October 11

On October 11, Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project will partner with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and over 40 community park groups in the annual **Fall For Your Park** event. This year, we are excited to be working with the Fairmount Park Commission and the Friends of Hunting Park to bring this event to **Hunting Park** in North Philadelphia (Old York Road and Hunting Park Avenue). Come join over 400 volunteers who will work together in a large-scale cleanup of the park. For more information, contact Paul Bonfanti at 215-988-8878.

John Gannon

2002 Fall For Your Park at Stenton Park

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

Waning Full Moon Walk in the Wissahickon

Friday, September 12, 7 – 9 pm

Arborist **Ken LeRoy**, a member of the board of Friends of the Wissahickon and specialist in trees of the Philadelphia region, will lead this evening walk. We'll begin at Bells Mill Road and Forbidden Drive through the Wissahickon woods to Houston Meadow, an unusual upland sandy ecosystem with uncommon tree species, including the native Gray Birch and Quaking Aspen. Please contact Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844 or *mmaslin@pennhort.org* by September 10 to register and get directions. FREE.

Friends Hospital Fall Cleanup

Saturday, September 13, 10 am to noon
4641 Roosevelt Blvd.

Learn what's a weed and what's not and how to identify poison ivy. We'll also divide perennials. Pre-registration is required. Lunch will be provided. For more information, please contact Mona Gold at 215-831-4682 or Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *mreynolds@pennhort.org*. FREE.

Tree Farm Tour

Wednesday, September 17, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Tim DeVaney's "Tree The Streets" program, in Ridley Park, is a wonderful source of container-grown trees for Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders and other Philadelphians. We will visit the farm, see the trees and learn how a container-grown-tree farm operates. For transportation assistance, directions, and to register, please contact Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844 or *mmaslin@pennhort.org* by September 15. FREE.

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Event Change

A Harvest Party will take the place of the Southwark/Queen Village Community Garden Festival on September 20. For more information, contact Audrey Lisowski at 215-238-9217 or *lottiedottie64@hotmail.com*

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Green City Strategy Unveiled at Press Conference

On September 22, PHS and Philadelphia Mayor John Street held a joint press conference to officially announce the $4 million contract awarded to PHS as part of the "Green City Strategy." As part of the mayor's anti-blight campaign—the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI)—PHS's Green City Strategy calls for significant improvements to the city's open space as a means to attract new residents and investment.

Pete Prown

Left to right: PHS executive vice president J. Blaine Bonham, Jr., NTI director Patricia Smith, and PHS president Jane Pepper join students from Grover Cleveland Elementary School in a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Green City Strategy.

"We are delighted to share the mayor's vision for a brighter and greener Philadelphia," said PHS president Jane Pepper. In turn, the Mayor thanked PHS for "their wonderful commitment to the city," and noted, "This is a great new partnership with PHS and the neighborhoods to maintain thousands of vacant lots." He added that a key indicator of the success of NTI would be the number of residents who choose to stay in their neighborhoods rather than move out of the city.

The press conference, attended by nearly 100 people, was held at Grover Cleveland Elementary School at 19th & Erie in the Tioga community. Outside the school, a landscaping crew worked to install wood fencing and plant trees on two adjacent vacant lots, an example of the work already in progress this fall.

The Green City Strategy involves an array of partners, including residents, community organizations, government, businesses, and other service agencies. Over the course of this one-year contract, one million square feet of vacant land will be cleared, fenced and planted with grass and trees in six target communities. Throughout the city, PHS will work with partners to revitalize 23 parks, complete 20 new garden projects, improve six longstanding, large-scale "Keystone" gardens, and enhance 30 residential streets with colorful planters. In addition, PHS will create six high-profile "signature" greening projects such as neighborhood gateways and other public spaces, remake four commercial corridors, and offer more than 30 gardening workshops.

Lastly, Philadelphia Green is implementing a community-based maintenance program for vacant lots, where eight community organizations will be responsible for maintaining over 1,700 vacant parcels throughout the city.

Speaking to the aim of this transformation work, NTI director Patricia Smith noted, "All of the city's neighborhoods should be great places in which to live, work, learn, shop, and play. Philadelphia can't be a world-class city without world-class neighborhoods."

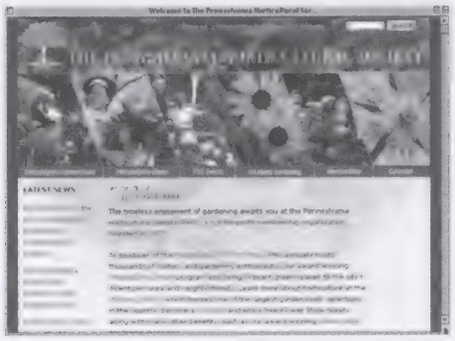
Look for additional updates on the Green City Strategy, including a fall progress report, in the next issue of *PG News*. You can also visit the PHS website for more information. *–John Gannon*

PHS Launches Colorful New Website

(see page 2)

PHS Launches Colorful New Website

The official website of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has been updated, upgraded and is now up and running! The new site offers enhanced, user-friendly search features and a contemporary look. You will also find convenient, informative resources for experienced and beginner gardeners, community groups, educators and horticulturists.



You can, of course, learn more about **Philadelphia Green**, including city gardening activities, workshops and training opportunities, or read or download the latest news and publications about greening efforts in the city.

With one click, you can visit the redesigned **Philadelphia Flower Show** section, and if you're planning to exhibit at the Flower Show, you can download the complete **Flower Show Exhibitors Guide**, or print out just those sections that apply to your entries.

There's a brand-new **Calendar**, where you can search by topic or date for lectures, tours, meetings and other special events. You'll also find PHS's **Gold Medal Plants**, **volunteer** opportunities, easy access to the **McLean Library** (where PHS members can borrow books online), and much, much more.

Stay tuned for updates on exciting new features, stories, or services that become available on the website. So visit PHS online today. Best of all, the web address is still the same:
www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org

Grateful thanks to the McLean Contributionship for its support in the development of the new website.

Funding Opportunities

Here is a short list of local funding opportunities for environmental and horticultural projects:

- **America the Beautiful Fund** – free seeds for community planting projects: *www.america-the-beautiful.org/FreeSeeds_order_form.htm*
- **Allen Hilles Fund** – community service programs, community gardening: *www.dvg.org/Hilles/index.html*
- **Bread and Roses Community Fund** – *www.breadrosesfund.org*
- **The Douty Foundation** – support for community gardens; for guidelines, fax request to 610-834-8175
- **Home Depot Foundation** – $5,000 to $25,000 for environmental projects: *www.homedepotfoundation.org/hfus/enus/apply.html*
- **Patricia Kind Family Fund** – community-based programs: *PKFFoundation@comcast.net*
- **The Philadelphia Foundation** – *www.philafound.org*
- **Wal-Mart Community Involvement Program** – matching gift program for tree plantings (up to $2,000) through planning an event with associates of your local Wal-Mart facility.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Blanche Epps

Having three children, a dozen grandchildren, and just as many great-grand kids might slow down most people, but not gardener Blanche Epps. Involved with Philadelphia Green since 1978, Blanche has played several roles in urban community gardening. She is a past member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and a participant and judge with the City Gardens Contest, among other many other volunteer tasks.

Born in Kershaw County, South Carolina, Blanche moved to North Philadelphia 60 years ago before eventually settling in the southwest part of the city. For years, she led a community garden, and today her own "tiny garden" boasts about 100 containers, filled with vegetables, fruits, and herbs. In fact, container gardening is a topic of workshops she continues to lead for Philadelphia Green gardeners. Blanche notes that you can grow a successful garden no matter the circumstances. "If all you have is a window box," she explains, "you can still grow a wonderful herb garden, and you'll have fresh spices for your cooking."

A certified master gardener through Penn State, Blanche has had an impact on the lives of gardeners throughout the city. "It makes you feel good to grow something," Blanche reflects.

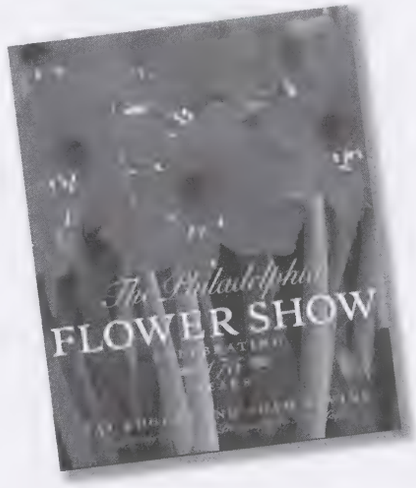
– John Gannon

The Flower Show Book

On November 1st, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society proudly presents T*he Philadelphia Flower Show, Celebrating 175 Years* (published by HarperCollins). This magnificent hardcover book is the first-ever volume to capture the majesty and spectacular color of this event.

Written by award-winning garden writer Adam Levine (*Garden Design, This Old House, Green Scene*) and long-time Flower Show exhibitor Ray Rogers, the 282-page book features hundreds of gorgeous photographs and an introduction by noted garden-guru Ken Druse.

Along with wonderful images of the Flower Show past and present, there are colorful anecdotes from long-time exhibitors and stories about the Show's history. Surely, this is a must-have book for any faithful visitor to the Philadelphia Flower Show, as well as those who admire it from afar. It will be available at Borders, Joseph Fox and other bookstores, as well as online through the Flower Show website, *www.theflowershow.com*.



Save the Date

Future of our Food and Farms Summit

December 4 & 5, 2003
Wyndham Hotel, Wilmington, Delaware

Hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Food & Farm Coalition, this is a regional summit to promote agriculture, learn about trends in food distribution, and find ways to promote healthy eating and reduce hunger in the Mid-Atlantic region.

For more information, visit *www.foodfarm.org* or contact The Food Trust at 215-568-0830 x10 or email: *contact@thefoodtrust.org*

2003 City Gardens Contest Winners

PHS's City Gardens Contest recognizes Philadelphia residents for their skillful and imaginative gardening. Here is a list of the 1st place winners in the contest; a complete list of all winners can be found on the PHS website: *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org.* Congratulations to all who entered!

1st Place Community Winners

School Gardens
The Urban Nutrition Initiative/ University City High School, Jennifer Rulf & Kids

Philadelphia Green Parks Revitalization Project
Friends of Konrad Square, Ed Woods & Neighbors
Friends of Vernon Park, John Sgrillo & Neighbors

Community Flower Gardens
1150 S. 13th Street, Terry Bremer & Neighbors
Hands-On Garden, Peggy Garrett & Neighbors
Historic Bartram's Garden, Bill LeFevre & Neighbors

First Year Community Gardens
Eugene E. Smith Memorial Award
5th & Spencer Streets, Laurel Sweeney & Neighbors

The Greenest Block in Town
6200 Block of Ellsworth Street, John Steptoe & Neighbors

Philadelphia Green Garden Blocks
2200 Block of Emerald Street, Maria Ramos & Neighbors

Community Combination Vegetable/Flower Gardens
2751-53 N. Front Street, Saro Rodriquez & Neighbors
Fitzwater 2000 Community Garden, Stephen Maciejewski & Neighbors
Las Parcelas, Iris Brown & Neighbors
Peach Street Community Garden, Lillie Singleton & Neighbors
The Spring Gardens, Stephan J. White & Neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens
1933 - 1943 N. 31st Street, Maron Faison & Neighbors
Glenwood Green Acres, Darlene Marcus/James Taylor & Neighbors
The Southerners, Josephine Speights & Neighbors

1st Place Individual Winners

Children's Gardens
Carina Flaherty

Container Gardens
Jonathan Eells
Kim Hanley
Mark Nolte
Joyce Paul
Richard Rutherford
Les Sharpless

Vegetable Gardens
Salvatore Bruno
Stacey Gaines
Lawrence King
Alan McHale
Domenico Scicchitano

Combination Vegetable/ Flower Gardens
Diane Kunze/John Neugebauer
Toney Lucas
J. D. Paternoster

Flower Gardens
Bruce Benedon
Gail Chapman
Maria Delgado
Thomas & Suzanne Duffy
Ivey Galitan
Alexander Myers
Rachel Purcell
Samuel, Susana & Sofia Rivera
Ralph Satterthwaite

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

The following workshops take place at neighborhood branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia. These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information about these events, please contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or browse the calendar on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*

Houseplant Care

Monday, November 3, 6:30–7:30 pm
Logan Branch, 1333 Wagner Avenue

Monday, November 10, 6–7 pm
Southwark Branch, 932 S. 7th Street

Wednesday, November 12, 7–8 pm
Fox Chase Branch, 501 Rhawn Street

Holiday Decorating

Wednesday, November 5, 6:30–7:30 pm
Oak Lane Branch, 6614 N. 12th Street

Saturday, November 8, 2–3 pm
Lehigh Avenue Branch,
601 W. Lehigh Avenue

Wednesday, November 19,
6:30–7:30 pm
Holmesburg Branch,
7810 Frankford Avenue

Dried Flower Decorations

Monday, November 17, 7–8 pm
Roxborough Branch,
6645 Ridge Avenue

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Progress Report: the Green City Strategy

In June 2003, Philadelphia's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI) awarded a $4 million contract to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to begin implementation of its Green City Strategy. Below, Philadelphia Green director Mike Groman talks about some of the work that we've accomplished this past fall.

J. Gannon

Ready, Willing & Able, a homeless-to-work program, maintains lots in the American Street Empowerment Zone.

"Over the course of this contract, one million square feet of vacant land (1,000 total parcels) is being cleared, then greened with grass, trees, and wood fencing. More than 60% of this work is underway in the six target communities: Eastern North Philadelphia, North Central Philadelphia, West Philadelphia/Mantua, South Philadelphia, Frankford, and East Mt. Airy. We're also overseeing eight community organizations that are performing periodic maintenance of cleared lots.

"Contract funds are augmenting our Parks Revitalization Project, a partnership that involves the Department of Recreation, Fairmount Park Commission, and volunteer community groups. We've awarded grants to 31 parks for projects like much-needed pruning of older trees and for community events. And, we'll be helping residents start 20 new community gardens. All of these folks have completed our Garden Tenders training workshops, so they've got the tools to do the work.

"Through the support of the William Penn Foundation, we've been able to start greening projects along commercial corridors like Baltimore Avenue in University City and Germantown Avenue in Mt. Airy. With NTI funds, we're growing these efforts, developing landscape plans for Ogontz Avenue in West Oak Lane, Girard Avenue near 31st Street, and Frankford & Cottman in Mayfair.

"With NTI undertaking a significant tree-planting program through the Fairmount Park Commission, our Tree Tenders project will support that effort by turning out trained volunteers to care for the newly planted trees. Finally, we've so far helped residents to create 16 'garden blocks.' We provide the containers, soil and plants, assist with the planting process, and provide advice about long-term care."

Look for more on the Green City Strategy in future issues of *PG News*.

Jerome Brown Park, 1919-41 W. Ontario

J. Gannon

2004 Philadelphia Flower Show

Dates:	*March 7–14, 2004*
Hours:	*Sundays, March 7 and March 14, 8 am–6 pm* *Monday–Friday, March 8–12, 10 am–9:30 pm* *Saturday, March 13, 8 am–9:30 pm*
Location:	*Pennsylvania Convention Center* *12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107*
Flower Show Information:	*215-988-8899 (recorded information)* *www.theflowershow.com*

Destination Paradise

A Preview of the 2004 Philadelphia Flower Show

The Philadelphia Flower Show celebrates its 175th anniversary this year with "Destination Paradise," a fantasy visit to an imaginary world of extravagant beauty.

In considering the theme for this year's Show, director and designer Ed Lindemann says he was inspired by "the idea of paradise on earth."

The three Central Feature exhibits express the idea of paradise in different ways. The first, designed by **Waldor Orchids**, will include the largest collection of specimen orchids ever displayed in North America. The exhibit progresses from a wilderness paradise to a man-made one. Visitors enter through an arch formed by ficus trees and festooned with hundreds of orchids and vines. As you move through the exhibit, carved stone faces spout water and mist. A luxurious, candle-lit pavilion rounds out the display.

Solana Succulents, a new Flower Show exhibitor from Solana Beach, California, will create the second Central Feature display. The company's owner, Jeff Moore, will design an "Underwater Paradise" made of succulent plants, designed to look as if you are scuba diving in paradise. **Flowers by David** from Langhorne, Bucks County, will lend a bit of humor to the show with the third Central Feature set, "This Place Called Paradise," a horticultural spoof on heaven, complete with pearly gates, a wing-making workshop (for angel wings) and a "stairway to heaven."

PHS will mount special displays highlighting the current projects of its **Philadelphia Green** program, the nation's most comprehensive urban-greening effort, as well as the **Gold Medal Plant Award Program**. And, as always, visitors can enjoy a variety of activities at the Show, including lectures, workshops and demonstrations; shopping in the Marketplace; the Borders Book Fair; Gardener's Studios in the Main Exhibition Hall; cooking demonstrations; the elegant Afternoon Tea; and other attractions.

Pete Prown

Revenues generated by the Philadelphia Flower Show, including contributions from the Show's presenting sponsor, PNC Bank, help support the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's programs, including Philadelphia Green.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Torben Jenk

Like many neighborhoods in Philadelphia, Kensington South has experienced some rough times, but it has also seen its share of hope and renewal, thanks to hard-working neighbors like Torben Jenk.

Soon after Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders classes started in 1995, Torben found himself learning not only about how to care for city trees, but how to bring neighbors together and fund-raise for worthy community efforts. He credits his neighbor Tom Lederer (who has his own long-time ties to Philadelphia Green) as the one who spurred him to join Tree Tenders.

Torben recently completed a long tenure as a part of the local Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council, where he helped to start seven community gardens, many of which have become consistent winners in PHS's City Gardens Contest. "We've been able to take what we learned in Tree Tenders, and apply it to other community efforts," he notes, adding that the Kensington South group has probably raised close to $70,000 for greening projects. They have also been able to reach the local youth, working with the Moffit Elementary School on various garden projects.

A resident of Kensington South for 20 years, Torben came to Philadelphia after living in Europe (he is of English and Danish descent). For his day job, he runs a construction business and has often brought those skills to the local greening projects, helping to build storage sheds and erect fences for the gardens.

For several years, Torben has been a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. "Once they get their hook in you, they never let you go!," he jokes. "It's a terrific, wonderfully diverse group of Philadelphians," he says of the Board's roster. "Gardening and greening really bring out the best in people."

2003 Fall for Your Park

Over 250 volunteers gathered on October 11th in Hunting Park for Philadelphia Green's annual *Fall for Your Park*. Thirty park friends groups from across the city came together for a large-scale cleanup of this historic but challenged 80-acre park in North Philadelphia. During the event, held in collaboration with the Fairmount Park Commission and the Department of Recreation, volunteers planted four trees, 31 woody shrubs and over 8,000 bulbs, and painted the gymnasium, among other activities. This year's event was supported by the city's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative and the William Penn Foundation.

Pete Prown

Gardens of Art & Learning

Margaret Funderburg

In partnership with the Department of Recreation's Mural Arts program, Philadelphia Green provided design services for the creation of art gardens at McKinley Elementary School and Vare Charter School. At McKinley, the students now enjoy two outdoor interactive classrooms: a Humanities Garden with project tables and a mural map; and a Math and Science Garden that includes a life-size numbers chart in pavers and a mural solar system (pictured). Vare received a new sculptural arbor in a caterpillar-like form, as well as habitat plantings that will attract birds, butterflies and bees seeking food and shelter.

Honoring City Gardeners

In the fall, close to 500 winners and well-wishers of PHS's City Gardens Contest attended the 2003 Awards Reception. This year's festivities were held at a new location—the recently renovated Hamilton Building of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. For a week after the reception, photo-kiosks of the winners were set up at Liberty Place in Center City for all to enjoy.

Flossie Narducci

Events & Activities

Garden Tenders Basic Training

Tuesday, January 27, Wednesday, February 4 & Tuesday, February 10
5:30 to 8:30 pm
PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor

For more information about this free three-session course for Philadelphia groups who want to make community gardens on vacant lots, contact Sally McCabe at 215-988-8846 or email: *smccabe@pennhort.org*

Philadelphia Green Skills Conference

January 31, 2004, 9 am – 2 pm
Community College of Philadelphia, 1700 Buttonwood Avenue (between Vine & Spring Garden)
Fee: $5 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

For volunteers engaged in neighborhood greening projects, the topics at this conference include: meeting facilitation, volunteer recruitment, problem solving, and working with City Hall. Contact Sally McCabe at 215-988-8846 or email: *smccabe@pennhort.org*

Winter Wissahickon Walk

Sunday, February 1, 2 – 5 pm
Meet at Thomas Mansion, 6245 Wissahickon Avenue (Between Walnut Lane & Johnson Street)

Join PHS and Fairmount Park for a family-friendly walk through the Wissahickon woods, followed by hot cider in historic Thomas Mansion. For more information and to RSVP by January 14, contact Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844.

Lecture: Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Spot

Wednesday, February 18th, 12 – 1 pm; repeats at 6 pm
PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor

Learn what to look for to insure a happy long-term relationship with a new tree. For more information and to RSVP, contact Alex Green at 215-988-8869. (Bring a brownbag lunch to the noon session; refreshments will be provided.)

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

The following workshops take place at neighborhood branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia and other locations in the city. These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Marilyn Reynolds at *citygardening@pennhort.org* or 215-988-8872, or browse the calendar on the PHS website.

Seed Starting Basics: Easy as "1, 2, 3"

Saturday, January 17, 1 – 2 pm
Cobbs Creek Environmental Education Center
700 Cobbs Creek Parkway (corner of Cobbs Creek & Catharine Streets)

Cactus & Succulent Care with Eva Monheim

Saturday, January 24, 10 – 11 am
Southwest Community Development Corporation
6328 Paschall Avenue

Kitchen Gardening, "Grow It, Don't Throw It"

Wednesday, February 18, 7 – 8 pm
Fox Chase Branch, Free Library
501 Rhawn Street

Propagating Your Houseplants

Wednesday, February 25, 7 – 8 pm
Wynnefield Branch, Free Library
5325 Overbrook Avenue

African Violets, the "Perfect House Guest"

Saturday, February 28, 2 – 3 pm
Haddington Branch, Free Library
446 N. 65th Street

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Philadelphia Green at the Flower Show

This year's Flower Show exhibit by **Philadelphia Green** will feature a dynamic multimedia presentation that looks at the program's wide scope of initiatives. "Visitors will learn about the various ways that greening positively impacts Philadelphia's communities and residents," notes Flossie Narducci, PHS special events manager.

2003 Philadelphia Green exhibit

John Gannon

Each section of the exhibit will feature message points that focus on the social, economic, and health aspects of greening, with catchy sayings such as "Seeing Greens is Every Bit as Healthy as Eating Them," "Planting Trees Gets Rid of Shady Characters," and "Beauty Beats Blight." Large photographic murals and video footage of recent greening activities across the city will capture the spirit of Philadelphia Green. And look for the ever popular "hanging windows," overflowing with colorful window-box planters, which will be suspended from the Convention Center's ceiling.

PHS extends generous thanks to F. A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. for sponsoring this year's Philadelphia Green exhibit at the Flower Show. The exhibit will be located on the main Show floor, just to the left of the PHS Flower Show Shoppe and Membership booths.

Philadelphia Green Brunch

Join us on **Sunday, March 14 at 11:30 am** for the annual Philadelphia Green Brunch at the Flower Show. Your brunch ticket ($30) includes Flower Show admission. For reservations, call Kay Gramiak at 215-988-8861.

And be sure to also stop by the **Gold Medal Plant exhibit** at the Show, which showcases winners of PHS Gold Medal Plant Awards and recognizes outstanding trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers for use in Zones 5 – 7. Many of these also grow well in urban environments. Expert volunteers from the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association (PLNA) will again be on hand to answer questions about Gold Medal winners as well as PHS and PLNA.

PHS's Gold Medal Plant program is funded in part by the Chanticleer Foundation.

2004 Philadelphia Flower Show

Dates:	*March 7–14*
Hours:	*Sundays, March 7 and March 14, 8 am–6 pm* *Monday–Friday, March 8–12, 10 am–9:30 pm* *Saturday, March 13, 8 am–9:30 pm*
Location:	*Pennsylvania Convention Center* *12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA*
Flower Show Information:	*215-988-8899 (recorded information)* *www.theflowershow.com*

Community Corridors To See Green

As part of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's one year, $4-million contract with the city of Philadelphia to implement the Green City Strategy, several strategic corridors will receive much-needed landscape amenities. Partnering with local community organizations and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, PHS's Philadelphia Green program will enhance streetscapes that serve as economic lifelines for their neighborhoods.

Six corridors will be addressed: along Baltimore Avenue in the University City section of West Philadelphia; Germantown Avenue in Mount Airy; Ogontz Avenue in West Oak Lane; Girard Avenue near 31st Street; Frankford & Cottman in the city's Mayfair section; and along Oxford Avenue in the Northeast's Fox Chase.

Philadelphia Green is developing landscape designs that include traffic islands, small "pocket" parks, gateways at train trestles and bridges, and new street-tree and container plantings. This will complement community efforts like improvements to business façades and nearby residences, increased litter pickup, other streetscape improvements, and ongoing efforts to attract potential investors and retain existing businesses in these areas.

In order to launch successful projects within the one-year timeframe, Philadelphia Green selected local organizations with established corridor programs and the ability to handle maintenance after the greening work is completed. Discussions over the fall and winter helped to gauge community needs and guide the design process. During the spring and summer, Philadelphia Green will oversee contractors who will put these improvements "in the ground."

"This work reflects the momentum of the past few years, where community development corporations and other neighborhood groups have been taking concerted steps to rebuild or remake the commercial centers of their communities," says Philadelphia Green project manager Carl Haefner.

The revitalization work along Baltimore Avenue was one of the earliest corridor initiatives. In two years, the University City District has improved the physical environment by stepping up trash and graffiti removal and planting trees along barren blocks. The District is now partnering with Philadelphia Green to convert concrete traffic triangles into green gateways.

"Baltimore Avenue has suffered from decades of neglect and disinvestment," notes Eric Goldstein, University City District's executive director. "Greening this corridor is one of the best ways to send a message of renewed investment. It's a message that will attract customers and retailers as we work to reinvigorate this business corridor and reestablish it as University City's neighborhood shopping district."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Russell Meddin

Ah, who is that lone rider biking around the Logan Square neighborhood? It's Russell Meddin, a one-man anti-graffiti machine who has taken it upon himself to remove any undesirable spray paint practically as soon as it appears. With PHS located smack in his neighborhood, he muses, "Do you ever see graffiti around the building?" The answer, of course, is "no."

But then Russell decided he had to do even more. "If you want to keep your neighborhood beautiful, you have to do more than keep the buildings clean," he says. "You have to beautify the land."

He then added a range of greening and gardening tasks to his "to do" list. In 1997, Russell coordinated the volunteers for the monumental clean-up of debris along the slope of JFK Boulevard. (Today, of course, this entryway to Center City from 30th Street Station annually blossoms into a lush greenway.) At the Logan Square Neighborhood Association, he increased his involvement to include the garden committee. And then there are his "guerrilla gardens"....

"I just got fed up with pieces of land in the neighborhood that were being neglected," he explains. "So I decided to garden on this land." (Initially, without permission from the city, he admits.) Today, though, Russell has gone "legit," and one of these original gardens, the Triangle Garden at 23rd & Winter, is now a sanctioned open space. Across the street from PHS, Russell helped start the Gas Station Garden and lends a hand at its volunteer workdays.

Russell also serves on Philadelphia Green's Advisory Board and volunteers at the Flower Show, where he leads early morning tours and acts as a welcoming ambassador to visitors. He adds he's currently a "stay at home dad," but eventually plans to re-enter the workforce. Let's hope that he'll still have the time to fight the good fight. Every neighborhood needs greening advocates like Russell Meddin.

- John Gannon

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at *citygardening@pennhort.org* or 215-988-8872, or browse the calendar on the PHS website: *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*

Herbs, Gardens & Health

Saturday, March 20,
11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Christ Baptist Church
1509 Church Lane

Growing Vegetables in Containers

Wednesday, March 24, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Rodriquez Branch Free Library
600 W. Girard Avenue

Gardening in Small Spaces: Backyard Gardens

Saturday, March 27,
3 – 4 pm
Frankford Branch
Free Library
4634 Frankford Avenue

Kids Gardening

Saturday, April 3, 11 am – noon
Independence Branch Free Library
18 S. 7th Street

Windowbox Gardening

Monday, April 5, 6 – 7 pm
Southwark Branch Free Library
932 S. 7th Street

Planning the Summer Garden

Wednesday, April 14, 7 – 8 pm
Northeast Branch Free Library
11099 Knights Road

Managing & Controlling Weeds in the Garden

Monday, April 19, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Wynnefield Branch Free Library
5325 Overbrook Avenue

Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden

Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Torresdale Branch Free Library
3079 Holme Avenue

Native Spring Wildflowers

Saturday, April 24, 10 am – noon
Historic Bartram's Garden
54th St. & Lindbergh Blvd.

Spring Into Your Park: May 1st

On May 1st, Philadelphia Green's Park Revitalization Project will partner with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and almost 50 community friends groups in the 6th annual Spring Into Your Park. Park groups across the city will organize workdays, plantings, and festivals in their neighborhood parks. For more information, or to find out about a park near you, contact Paul Bonfanti at 215-988-8878.

Pete Prown

Volunteers at Connell Park

Growing Community Gardeners

Philadelphia Green's 2003 Growing Community Gardeners Initiative concluded with a festive party on February 20, where gardening groups from across the city gathered to celebrate their hard work and accomplishments. The original 20 participating groups were selected not only because of their established gardens but also their involvement in their communities beyond the garden gates.

Philadelphia Green designed the program's educational components to meet the groups' desires for leadership, group organizing and capacity building skills. Several of the groups had an increase in membership due to outreach, while others were able to take steps towards permanent preservation of their gardens as neighborhood open space.

In the horticultural part of the program, staff led organic gardening workshops in four different areas of the city. Gardeners had the opportunity to visit each other's gardens, network together, and share ideas and seeds. Two groups in West Philadelphia even assisted each other at clean-up days.

"These gardeners are bright examples of the opportunities provided through involvement in community gardens," notes citywide project manager Eileen Gallagher. "They illustrate the many ways a community garden can benefit a neighborhood and the city."

– Paco Verin

Give to PHS through the United Way.
Our Donor Option ID number is 06197

Kids Grow Expo Joins EarthFest

Save the Date: April 22, 2004

This year's **Kids Grow Expo** will be held in conjunction with Temple University's EarthFest, an outdoor educational festival at Temple's Ambler campus. "This exciting new affiliation will expand the reach of the Kids Grow Expo and offer a broader educational experience for the children," says Flossie Narducci, PHS special events manager. "It will also allow kids to celebrate Earth Day and learn about careers in horticulture."

The Kids Grow Expo includes educational exhibits, service-learning projects, and competitive classes. The theme this year is "Bugs 'n' Buds," which will introduce the idea that some tiny creatures are a gardener's best friends—acting as pollinators, soil builders and predators of garden pests. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897 or email *fnarducc@pennhort.org.*

LECTURE:
The Trials and Tribulations of Horticultural Hall

Thursday, April 15, 6 pm • PHS Auditorium

This lecture by art and cultural historian **Elizabeth Milroy** focuses on the fascinating political and architectural history of the spectacular building constructed in Fairmount Park for the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. **Fee: $20 for PHS members, $25 for non-members.** To register, call 215-988-8869 or email *programreg@pennhort.org.*

City Hall in Bloom

Save the Date: May 20

The annual City Hall in Bloom event will be held **Thursday, May 20, 9 am – noon.** Help beautify City Hall on this festive planting-day. Please call Joan Kapczynski at 215-988-8865 or email *jkapczyn@pennhort.org* for more info.

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Aspen Farms is Permanently Preserved

photos by Harry Kalish

Aspen Farms, one of Philadelphia's most successful and celebrated community gardens, now has permanent status as the newest land trust garden in the city. After years of hard work by neighborhood residents working with the Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust (NGA), the city of Philadelphia transferred title to the land to NGA as a permanent, community-managed garden.

The garden was created in 1975 by neighborhood residents through PHS's **Philadelphia Green** program. It doubled in size in two years, filling the entire half-acre vacant lot. Located on the former site of demolished row houses and a dry cleaning business at 47th & Aspen Streets, this West Philadelphia vegetable and flower garden has been featured in the national news media, including *Good Morning America* and *National Geographic.*

Today, **Aspen Farms** boasts a beautiful assortment of trees, vegetables, flowers, and fish and lily ponds, as well as a colorful painted mural of a farm scene. It also serves as an outdoor science classroom for students from two local middle schools. The garden is one of Philadelphia Green's Keystone Gardens—larger, long-standing community gardens that are significant in Philadelphia's community-gardening past, present, and future. Keystone Gardens receive ongoing assistance from Philadelphia Green to help ensure their success and viability.

The success of Aspen Farms is a tribute to its active and dedicated leadership, its well-organized garden club, and the passion of its members. Each member pays an annual fee, and the group holds yearly fundraisers, including trips, dinners, and donation appeals, to help support the garden. **Hayward Ford**, garden coordinator since 1986, has been a tireless leader, working long hours in the garden and serving as an advocate for Aspen Farms and for community gardening citywide. Ford's challenge is to connect with younger people in the community and encourage them to help lead this treasured neighborhood landmark into the future.

NGA works to ensure the continuity and long-term preservation of community-managed gardens and green spaces in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in Philadelphia. NGA was started in 1986 through a partnership between PHS and the **Penn State Urban Gardening Program** as a mechanism to preserve these urban treasures that community groups work so hard to create. One of only a few urban land trusts in the country, NGA serves as a model for organizations across the United States.

If you'd like to find out more about the preservation of community gardens like Aspen Farms, you can visit NGA online at ***www.ngalandtrust.org***. The web site has information on each of the 25 land trust gardens in Philadelphia.

– Margot Berg, Associate Director, NGA

We're Pruning Our Mailing List

(See back page)

PHS Receives Grant for Logan Square Landscape Project

The Pew Charitable Trusts has awarded a grant of $750,000 to PHS to renovate the landscape within the Logan traffic circle, the centerpiece of Logan Square, which is located between 18th and 20th Streets along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Center City. One of the original five squares in William Penn's design for the city, Logan Square is anchored by the famed Swann Fountain and 12 stately *Paulownia tomentosa* trees.

The grant covers a 15-month period starting this April and includes the formation of a partnership among PHS's Philadelphia Green program, the Fairmount Park Commission—which owns the land—and the Center City District. It will also include a coalition of the institutional neighbors around the square, including the Free Library, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Franklin Institute. Together, the partners will choose a design firm, create a new landscape, and formulate a plan for long-term management of the new landscape improvements.

Julie Snell

Existing conditions at Logan Square (photo taken December 2003)

"We're thrilled to play a role in rejuvenating the plantings at this important Center City focal point," says Mike Groman, director of Philadelphia Green. "We're grateful to the Pew Trusts for helping to make it possible."

Originally designed by Jacques Greber, Logan Square's central landscape last had a facelift in 1981, when a landscape architect working for the Fairmount Park Commission, Carol Gangewere, retooled the site's planting beds.

Watch for updates on this project in future issues of *PG News*.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Bettye O. Cam

Growing up, it was inevitable that Bettye O. Cam would find her way into horticulture. "Both of my parents were involved in it, and I guess you could say that it runs in the blood," she says, adding that her brother taught horticulture at Hampton University in Virginia and her sister does floral arrangements for weddings. (And her grandfather was a medicine man, but that's another story…)

"I was introduced to Philadelphia Green by Carmen Delgado," recalls Bettye. (Carmen is a gardening legend of the Ludlow neighborhood.) "I was able to witness first hand the transformation of her block. I was inspired by her, and I wanted the Ludlow School to be a part of this." Subsequently, the school's garden began to take shape with a planting of daffodils along its edge—lots and lots of daffodils. As the daffodils bloomed, the children were reminded to walk by that part of the street. "The flowers became quite famous," she laughs.

After a remarkable 37-year run as a counselor at the Ludlow School, Bettye has been retired for two years, yet she still keeps a pretty busy schedule. These days, Bettye visits the school to help out a teacher who works with special education kids in the garden. She's a graduate of Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders project and a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. She also helps to tend the landscape of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on volunteer workdays.

And speaking of volunteering, she's one of many who make the Philadelphia Green exhibit at PHS's Flower Show such a success. Bettye staffs the exhibit and offers visitors insight into urban greening. Her local garden club, Our Garden Club of Philadelphia, is a regular participant in the Flower Show.

Bettye's roots are in Wilmington, North Carolina, but she and her husband have called Mt. Airy home since 1968. When asked further about her love for gardening, Bettye laughs, "I'd rather be digging in the dirt than cleaning the house or washing the dishes."

–J. Gannon

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

These workshops are free and open to the public (except where noted). For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or browse the calendar on the PHS website: *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*

Container Gardening

Saturday, May 1, 10 – 11 am
Farmer's Market, 6148 Ridge Avenue

Janet Carter demonstrates how to create a container garden with window boxes, pots, hanging baskets and recycled material, for the home and streetscape garden.

Fun with Fresh Flowers

Wednesday, May 5, 7 – 8 pm
Katharine Drexel Branch, Free Library
11099 Knights Road

Join us as Floral Designer Cheryl Wilks shares a few basic principles of flower arranging to add beauty to your home.

The Fragrant Garden

Monday, May 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Independence Branch, Free Library
18 S. 7th Street

Horticultural educator Eva Monheim offers ideas about using plants and designs that add fragrance to the garden.

Container Gardening

Wednesday, May 12, 7 – 8 pm
Fox Chase Branch, Free Library
501 Rhawn Street

At this workshop, environmental educator Charlotte Kidd covers the basics of container gardening and how to grow almost any plant in a container.

Ornamental Grasses in the Home Landscape

Thursday, May 13, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander
University of Pennsylvania
Partnership School, 4209 Spruce Street
(Enter at the Cafeteria Entrance only, on 43rd & Locust Streets)

Join us as landscape architect and community gardener Michael Lofurno discusses the selection, care and planting of ornamental grasses for the home garden.

Fruit Trees in Containers

Monday, May 17, 4 – 6 pm
Horticultural Center in Fairmount Park
100 Horticultural Drive
(off Belmont and Montgomery Drive)

Community gardener Blanche Epps demonstrates how you can grow fruit trees in containers even in the smallest of gardens.

Vegetable Gardening

Saturday, May 22, 10 – 11am
Awbury Arboretum, The Cope House
Entrance off Chew Avenue between
Washington Lane & Haines Street

Janet Carter provides tips and advice for creating a successful vegetable garden.

Kitchen Gardening

Monday, May 24, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Roxborough Branch, Free Library
6245 Ridge Avenue

Horticultural therapist Mona Gold demonstrates how to grow attractive plants starting with seeds and discards from the kitchen.

Vertical Gardening

Wednesday, May 26, 5 – 9 pm
Bus Trip to Chanticleer Garden
in Wayne, PA

This trip will include a talk on vertical gardening and a self-guided tour of Chanticleer's gardens. We'll meet at 100 N. 20th Street, 5 pm sharp. We'll leave Chanticleer at 8 pm. Due to limited space, **registration is required. Fee is $5.** Deadline for registration is Monday, May 17. Please bring a brown bag supper to eat on the bus; refreshments will be provided.

Container Gardening with Kids

Wednesday, June 2, 4 – 5 pm
Paschalville Branch, Free Library
6942 Woodland Avenue

Janet Carter shares ideas about gardening for and with children.

Shade Gardening

Saturday, June 5, 3 – 4 pm
Frankford Branch, Free Library
4634 Frankford Avenue

At this workshop with Eva Monheim, learn everything you want to know about the challenges and rewards of gardening in the shade.

Designing Container Combinations

Monday, June 7, 7 – 8 pm
Andorra Branch, Free Library
705 E. Cathedral Road

Garden designer Toni Anne Flanigan demonstrates a number of striking plant combinations for containers that will enhance your garden.

Herbs 101

Wednesday, June 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Awbury Arboretum, The Cope House
Entrance off Chew Avenue between
Washington Lane & Chew Avenue

Mona Gold covers the basics of growing herbs in the home and garden.

Ethnic Cooking from the Garden

Monday, June 14, 6 – 7:30 pm
Independence Branch, Free Library
18 S. 7th Street

Using many multi-cultural plants from the garden, Mona Gold shows how cooking can be fun and healthy.

continued under flap

Park Trees Get Facelift

photos by J. Gannon

In the past couple of months, 14 neighborhood parks under the jurisdiction of the city's Department of Recreation received much-needed tree work, ranging from extensive pruning to the removal of hazardous trees to new plantings. Philadelphia Green managed the project and F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. did the heavy work, with McFarland Tree & Landscape Services pitching in at one park. Thanks to the following funders for their generous support of this project: The William Penn Foundation, City of Philadelphia's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, Citizens Bank, and Lincoln Financial Group Foundation.

Photos: Bartlett works in West Philadelphia's Carroll Park.

Save the Dates!

Fitzwater 2000 Community Garden Association's Garden Day: Saturday, May 1

2040-2044 Fitzwater Street
10 am – 2 pm

The Fitzwater 2000 Community Garden Association is partnering with the Neighborhood Gardens Association and the city's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative to preserve this award-winning garden. This first fundraiser will help to protect this vital green space. Events will include garden tours, a multi-family flea market, plant sale, and raffles. For more info, visit: *www.southphillyblocks.org/fitzwater2000 (Rain date: May 2)*

Liberty Lands Plant Sale: Saturday, May 1

The Northern Liberties community is holding their annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 1 at 949 N. American Street (just north of Poplar St.) from 9 am to 2 pm. This year's sale will feature a large variety of annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetables. All proceeds benefit Liberty Lands, Philadelphia's only community-owned and maintained urban park located at 3rd & Poplar. *(Rain date: May 2)*

Spring Into Your Park: Saturday, May 1

On May 1, Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project will partner with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and almost 50 community friends groups in the 6th annual Spring Into Your Park. Park groups across the city will organize workdays, plantings, and festivals in their neighborhood parks. To volunteer at a park near you, contact Paul Bonfanti at 215-988-8878.

City Hall in Bloom: Thursday, May 20

The annual City Hall in Bloom event will be held on Thursday, May 20 from 9:30 am to noon (rain or shine). To volunteer at this festive planting day, call Joan Kapczynski at 215-988-8865 or email: *jkapczyn@pennhort.org* (Please provide name and phone number or email.)

Bare-Root Trees for Tree Tenders

On a spring morning in late March, travelers zipping down the Schuylkill Expressway probably thought they were seeing things—like a huge tractor trailer in a parking lot just a stone's throw from the highway, surrounded by folks unloading heaps of bare-root trees. For the past five years, this rather unusual annual tree delivery has been organized by PHS and its Tree Tenders project, which teaches community groups tree care and planting skills. This year, 20 groups purchased over 250 trees.

photos by J. Gannon

Ah, but let's get to the root of the matter—why *bare-root* trees? PHS project manager Mindy Maslin runs through some reasons. "Bare-root trees have a greater root mass, so they can establish faster, and since they're much lighter than balled and burlapped trees, they're easier for volunteers to plant." She adds that these trees are also much less expensive, costing on average $20 to $40 as opposed to $100 to $125 for "B&B" of similar size.

Bare-root trees, though, are not large in caliper—1.5 inches at most—and the exposed roots require extra tender loving care. After delivery, the trees must be soaked in a special "hydrogel" solution (see photo above) to protect the roots and placed in plastic bags; then they need to get in the ground within a few days to ensure a successful planting.

Mindy says that a Penn State workshop she attended on bare-root trees convinced her of their merits. "I became a believer," she recalls. And, apparently, so have her Tree Tenders.

City Gardening Series

continued

Creating a Cutting Garden

Wednesday, June 16, 7 – 8 pm
Lovett Memorial Branch,
Free Library
6945 Germantown Avenue

Floral designer Cheryl Wilks shows how different kinds of flowering plants are suitable for a cutting garden, which can provide fresh flowers for arrangements throughout the growing season.

Small Space Gardening

Monday, June 21, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Holmesburg Branch, Free Library
7810 Frankford Avenue

Environmental educator Charlotte Kidd gives advice for those with limited gardening space.

Bus Trip to Triple Oaks Herb Farm

Wednesday, June 30, 9 am – 4 pm

This trip to Triple Oaks Herb Farm in Franklinville NJ will include a discussion and a tour of the herb farm. We'll meet at 100 N. 20th Street, 9 am sharp. We'll leave Triple Oaks at 3 pm. Due to limited space, **registration is required. Fee is $5.** Deadline for registration is Monday, June 21. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at Triple Oaks.

Community Gardens Work With Philabundance

In March, Philadelphia Green began a collaboration with Philabundance, an organization that works to end hunger and malnutrition in the greater Philadelphia region by rescuing surplus food and distributing it to local organizations serving people in need.

Philadelphia Green linked Philabundance with two gardens in Germantown, connecting the gardens to Philabundance's efforts. The Church Lane Garden and the Hansberry Garden have made plots available to grow food exclusively for hunger relief programs in the area. Philabundance will coordinate the volunteer groups and offer training on how to grow and harvest food. Philadelphia Green is providing some technical assistance, and the community gardeners will also help with the growing.

This project is an exploration into linking community gardens to hunger relief on a larger scale. We'll keep you updated on the results of this endeavor.

– Paco Verin

Philadelphia Green Brunches at Flower Show

On March 14, over 460 people—including gardeners, park groups, tree-care enthusiasts and supporters—attended the annual Philadelphia Green Brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show. In recognition of significant contributions to urban greening, awards were presented to: Deborah McColloch, director of the city's Office of Housing and Community Development; the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (accepted by its director, Pat Smith); and the Philadelphia Empowerment Zone (accepted by its executive director, Eva Gladstein). The sponsor for the brunch, The Scotts Company, also presented a "Give-Back-To-Grow" award to the Spruce Hill Community Garden.

We're Pruning Our Mailing List

A note from the editor

Over the next couple of months, staff will be working to streamline our mailing list for *Philadelphia Green News*. If by chance you receive a mailed notice in July instead of the *July/August* issue, don't despair! The notice will include contact info—you can then simply let us know if you want to keep receiving *PG News*.

- J. Gannon

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Tree Tenders Basic Training

Wednesday, May 5, 12 & 19,
5:45 – 8:45 pm
Saturday, May 15, 10 am – 2 pm
PHS, 100 N. 20th Street

This free, four-part series is for groups and individuals interested in caring for trees in their neighborhoods. For more information, call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844. Deadline for registration is Friday, April 30.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

The Green City Strategy: A Year in Review

In June 2003, the City of Philadelphia's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI) awarded a one-year, $4 million contract to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) to support its Green City Strategy, which calls for significant improvements to the city's "green infrastructure" as a tool for revitalization. As the year draws to a close, Mike Groman, director of Philadelphia Green, brings us up to date.

Photos by Margaret Funderburg

Before

After

The Neighborhood Transformation Initiative includes a significant effort to reclaim the city's **vacant land**. We started out with an initial first-year goal of stabilizing one million square feet, or one thousand parcels (single street addresses). "Stabilization" involves clearing the land of debris, planting grass and trees and installing simple wood fencing. This dramatically improves the appearance of neighborhoods, prevents further deterioration, and helps attract new investment.

The work focuses on six target areas identified by NTI:

- East Mount Airy/ Germantown/Tioga
- Frankford
- South Philadelphia
- West Philadelphia
- Eastern North, and
- North Central Philadelphia.

As of the end of June, we've exceeded the initial goal by about one third, stabilizing 1,298,000 square feet, or nearly 1,300 parcels, of vacant land.

The contract also funded a pilot program for **community-based vacant land maintenance**. Philadelphia Green selected eight community organizations and trained them to provide basic landscaping maintenance services on land newly cleared by the city. The eight organizations—which mostly employ residents of the six target neighborhoods—are currently maintaining 1,971 parcels of vacant land, or 201 more than our stated aim.

In the area of **community greening**, we completed landscape improvements along four high-profile community corridors: Frankford Avenue, Ogontz Avenue, Girard Avenue, and Oxford Avenue. We also developed several "signature greening projects" in the six neighborhoods. These are major landscape improvements at important community sites, including libraries, schools, parks, and business corridors.

Working with residents and local groups, Philadelphia Green completed 23 garden projects throughout the city, including the creation of new community gardens, as well as enhancements at six older "Keystone" Gardens (established sites that have become landmarks in their communities). We made improvements to 26 neighborhood parks and offered training and special events for park volunteers. We also completed "garden block" projects in five communities, providing training and distributing plants along with 900 garden containers to residents.

continued on page 2

Green City Strategy

continued from page 1

In **education and training**, we increased the number of workshops offered through our Garden Tender and Tree Tender projects, and we launched a new "City Gardening Series" of free lectures and workshops.

This first-year effort has dramatically improved the appearance of city neighborhoods. What's more, we've been able to leverage resources provided by The Pew Charitable Trusts, the William Penn Foundation, and the city's Office of Neighborhood Revitalization with the NTI contract to maximize impact.

PHS continues to promote its Green City Strategy. We are embarking on another one-year contract with the city and are moving forward with other exciting initiatives.

For more information on the Green City Strategy, visit www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org and click on "Philadelphia Green."

A New Streetscape for Independence Mall

Among the exciting changes to Independence Mall is a new streetscape surrounding the National Constitution Center, the Visitor Center, and the new Liberty Bell pavilion. Philadelphia Green recently completed a planting of over 120 trees in long trenches along 5th, 6th, Market, and Arch Streets.

Under a contract with the city's Department of Streets, Philadelphia Green located and tagged the oaks and hackberries and supervised the installation. The trees were planted in trenches filled with structural soil, a special manufactured mix that helps trees endure the stresses of the urban environment. In keeping with the historic materials found in the district, the trenches are topped with Belgian block.

Picture a landscape crew with their front-end loaders and trucks having to work around the area's traffic, hordes of visitors, horse-drawn carriages, and actors in colonial garb. "It was a successful project, but it had its challenges," reflected project manager Linda Walczak. That's an understatement! *– Nancy O'Donnell*

Pete Prown

For general info on structural soil, visit: www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/csc

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Susan Petrone & Peter Verrecchia

People often think of South Philadelphia as culinary adventurous, yet somewhat lacking in the greener things in life—like, well…trees. But a movement has been afoot over the past decade that is changing all of that, and it rests on the shoulders of dedicated tree lovers like Susan Petrone and Peter Verrecchia.

Susan's a lifelong resident of South Philadelphia, growing up near 13th & Ellsworth and settling nearby. In addition to raising two children and working as a 3rd grade teacher, Susan has found time to give back to her community. In the early 1990s, she helped coordinate the neighborhood's block corner recycling efforts. Soon afterwards, she found PHS's Tree Tenders training program. (Tree Tenders are taught how to care for and plant the urban forest.)

Susan's tag-team partner in all of this good work has been Peter Verrecchia, a fellow Tree Tender and tree enthusiast. You'll often find him on his bike, pruning equipment in tow, talking to the neighborhood's residents about the benefits of trees. Together, they have been able to marshal incredible support for their cause.

The South Philadelphia Tree Tenders have thus far planted about 300 trees in the neighborhood. In addition to Tree Tenders, Susan and Peter serve on the advisory council for Columbus Square, a recreation center and neighborhood green space. And, they have participated in the recently created Passyunk Square Civic Association.

Susan says that all of their grassroots efforts have gotten the attention—and respect—of city agencies. "We've developed great relationships with the Department of Recreation and the Fairmount Park Commission," she says. "There's a trust there."

"Ten years ago most of my neighbors probably wouldn't have considered trees and greening something they would have cared about," Susan reflects. "Now, it's something that they couldn't live without."

Pete Prown

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or browse the calendar on the PHS website: *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*

Designing Container Combinations

Wednesday, July 14, 7 – 8 pm
Andorra Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia
705 E. Cathedral Road

Garden designer **Toni Ann Flanigan** demonstrates some striking plant combinations for containers that are sure to enhance your garden.

Herbs 101

Monday, July 19, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Roxborough Branch, Free Library
6245 Ridge Avenue

Horticultural therapist **Mona Gold** teaches the basics of growing and using herbs.

Shade Gardens

Wednesday, July 28, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Frankford Branch, Free Library
4634 Frankford Avenue

Horticulturist **Eva Monheim** reveals everything you need to know about the challenges and rewards of gardening in the shade.

Container Combinations for Fall

Wednesday, August 11, 7 – 8 pm
Andorra Branch, Free Library
705 E. Cathedral Road

Toni Ann Flanigan shows how to plant colorful container combinations to extend your garden's beauty well into the fall season.

Check the website for recently added workshops!

Are You a PHS Member?

J. Gannon

One of the benefits of becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is attending the New Members Party, held each spring at Chanticleer, a 35-acre "pleasure garden" in nearby Wayne, PA. Other perks include:

- Free Philadelphia Flower Show tickets
- Discounts at participating garden centers and nurseries
- A subscription to PHS's *Green Scene* gardening magazine, and much more!

To learn more about joining PHS or to request a brochure, call 215-988-8776 or 988-8832 or visit our website: ***www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org***.

Parks Get Spring Kick-Off

J. Gannon

Weccacoe Playground, Queen Village

Pete Prown

Cedar Park, West Philadelphia

On May 1st, Philadelphia Green held their 5th annual **Spring Into Your Park**, a citywide celebration of neighborhood parks. This event inspired park groups to give their parks a much needed "spring cleaning," while demonstrating the importance of these open spaces to community life. Spring Into Your Park also highlights the innovative three-way partnership among local park groups, the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, and Philadelphia Green. An incredible 44 park groups participated.

City Hall Blooms

For the 12th straight year, PHS and the Fairmount Park Commission partnered for the annual **City Hall in Bloom** event to bring new plantings to this nexus of city government. Amazingly, over 3,000 plants were put in the ground in under two hours. "We couldn't have done it without the incredible help of over 100 kids from several city schools and a great group of volunteers and staff," marveled PHS project manager Gretchen Trefny.

Stroll by the planting beds around City Hall and you'll find color combinations of lime-green and pink and lime-green and white; these beds were planted with variegated *Vinca maculata*, *Coleus* 'LifeLime', and *Begonia* 'Party White' and Dragon Wing Pink. Dilworth Plaza features a pink, burgundy, and green color scheme. Its planters received bananas (*Musa bordelon*)—yep, you read that right—along with *Petunia* Easy Wave 'Shell Pink', *Millet* 'Purple Majesty', *Lantana* 'Pink Caprice', *Coleus* 'Red Ruffles' and *Alternanthera* 'Fine Red Leaf'.

J. Gannon

Thanks to the following schools for their participation: Ada Lewis Middle School, Chester A. Arthur School, Frances Hopkinson School, John P. Turner Middle School, and Saltzberger Middle School.

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Growing Gardens

In June 2003, the City of Philadelphia's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI) awarded a one-year contract to PHS to support its Green City Strategy, which calls for significant improvements to the city's "green infrastructure" as a tool for revitalization. Recognizing the positive impact gardens have on neighborhoods, the city dedicated a portion of that funding to community garden projects.

J. Gannon

The Cohocksink Garden at Thompson & Mascher Streets.

Over the course of the year, PHS's Philadelphia Green worked with community groups to complete 23 garden projects throughout the city. Existing gardens were enhanced with fences, storage sheds and other amenities; several abandoned gardens were revived; and new gardens were created on vacant lots.

Creating a new garden is a step-by-step process that begins with the gardeners themselves. "We look for enthusiastic, motivated people who have completed our Garden Tenders training course," says Paco Verin, a project coordinator for Philadelphia Green. And whether they focus on vegetables, ornamental plants, or a combination of the two, many community gardens "grow more than plants," Paco notes. When residents come together to garden, they begin to seek out other ways to work together to improve their neighborhoods.

On Palethorpe Street in North Philadelphia, for example, Iris Brown helped create a *Colobo*, an African village garden that celebrates the African and Puerto Rican roots of many of the neighborhood's residents. And on South 53rd Street in West Philadelphia, a new garden group organizes projects that benefit the community's children, including a holiday toy drive and a collection for back-to-school supplies.

At a renovated garden at Thompson & Mascher Streets, in the Kensington section, the garden group grows extra vegetables for senior citizens at the nearby Zion Garden Apartments. The Thompson Street gardeners also plan to sell heirloom tomatoes to a new, locally owned café in the neighborhood.

This garden, called "Cohocksink" after an underground creek that runs beneath it, has helped bring the neighborhood residents together in a way that "cuts across generations and across cultures," says Roger Wing, who started the process of reviving this garden. Roger and his wife moved to the neighborhood less than three years ago, and he says the garden has been a great resource for getting to know people in the community that he might not have connected with otherwise. Two of the most active members of the group are from the Phillippines, while another is Palestinian.

"People are always stopping by to see what's growing," says Roger, "even if they're not interested in gardening themselves. I've met neighbors who come from Greece, Albania, Senegal, and Nigeria." The entire neighborhood is very supportive of the group's efforts. Even non-gardening neighbors have volunteered to help.

(continued on back page)

Call for Produce Donations

Would you like to donate extra produce from your garden? Philadelphia Green is collaborating with hunger relief agencies Philabundance and SHARE. This unique collaboration enables gardeners to donate their fresh, naturally grown produce directly to neighborhood food distribution sites. Call Eileen Gallagher at 215-988-8880 or Paco Verin at 215-988-8885 to find out if there is a host site near you that is accepting donations.

New Homes for City Birds

It all started when art-covered birdhouses started popping up on vacant lots along the American Street corridor. The questions soon followed: "Where did they come from? Who made these?" Eventually, it was revealed that artist Tara Herberger was responsible.

The birdhouse idea got staff at Philadelphia Green thinking: what if we could provide colorful birdhouses for even *more* vacant lots? Consequently, Philadelphia Green commissioned Tara to make 150 homes for our feathered friends.

Then, in April, kids from the Heston and Cleveland Elementary Schools and youth from programs run by the community organization Centro Pedro Claver, the Urban Tree Connection (an educational project), and the Westpark Cultural and Opportunity Center took part in a series of workshops organized by Philadelphia Green and run by Tara, resulting in a mountain of colorful bird havens, painted with images of hope, peace, and nature.

Staff helped Tara try to keep order amidst the creative chaos. At one point, Jackie Wright, PG project coordinator, could be heard saying, "Don't paint your arms, paint the birdhouses!" But as it turned out, all wasn't lost. "The kids made some incredible birdhouses," noted project coordinator Keith Green.

Once the little homes were completed, great help came from participants in two drug treatment facilities, New Desire Inc. and New Start Rehabilitation, who in July helped dig the holes and construct and erect the birdhouse "condos" (four birdhouses attached to a single post).

Today, in cleaned and greened vacant lots in parts of West Philadelphia, Feltonville, and Tioga, you'll find these artful mini-homes. "We wanted to put them up in lots that these kids pass by every day on their way to school," says PG project manager Debbie Hall. "It's a great reminder of the transformation that's taken place—how trashed lots are now green spaces, filled with the kids' beautiful, creative birdhouses."

Jackie Wright

Philadelphia Green's Debbie Hall (far left) and Shawn Kilgallon (second from right) with volunteers from New Start.

In the Spotlight: Stephan J. White

Paying a visit to the Spring Gardens at 18th & Wallace Streets, just north of Center City, you would never know that just ten years ago, this half city block was home to only a few remaining tattered rowhouses, surrounded by trashed lots and car-repair shops—a magnet for trouble. Today, this thriving community garden boasts plots tended by over 180 families from the neighborhood.

"People say that it's like the United Nations here," says Stephan White, one of the principal architects behind the transformation, adding that the gardeners include African-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Asians, Eastern Europeans, and others.

With the help of the city, which cleared and leveled the lot, Stephan and his neighbors got the garden "off the ground." After the first growing season, Philadelphia Green and the Spring Garden Civic Association pitched in, channeling funds to the fledgling group to create the raised gardening beds. A few years ago, the gardening group secured a grant that enabled them to erect an amazing, ornate fence around this very large site—you gotta see it to believe it!

Stephan says that this once-divided community has come together around the garden. "We came to discover that we care about the same things," he reflects. "Now it's not two neighborhoods, it's just 'the neighborhood'."

Oh, and Stephan actually *is* an architect. He is responsible for the design of the Spring Gardens, and he continues to serve as the elected chairman of the its Steering Committee. For his day job, he works as an architect from his home office. Last year, he joined the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. And, at Philadelphia Green's annual skills conference over the winter for gardeners and other greening folks, Stephan ran a well-received workshop on how to handle tough issues like vandalism and security in the garden.

As a resident of the Spring Garden neighborhood for 30 years, Stephan has seen its evolution. "The feeling of community is not just limited to the garden now; it extends well beyond, too."

Summer Happenings

Here's a look at just a few of Philadelphia Green's many summer projects…

Margaret Funderburg

A WALL THAT UNITES *On a blazingly hot day in July, Philadelphia Green helped organize a massive wall-building project at a community garden connected to the Sayre Middle School in West Philadelphia. Thanks to EP Henry's incredibly generous donation of pavers, staff and labor, this garden now has a beautiful, low, 140-foot-long wall that threads throughout the space. Grateful thanks to all who helped make this day such a success: kids from the Urban Tree Connection and Sayre School; youth from the NSA Educational Learning Center; and students from the Williamson Trade School in Media, PA.*

J. Gannon

EAGLES GO BACK TO SCHOOL *In June, the Eagles Youth Partnership (over 200 players and staff) helped beautify Gideon School in North Philadelphia with new murals, a garden, and a playground, partnering with the School District of Philadelphia, the Mural Arts Program, and Philadelphia Green. Philadelphia Green designed the habitat garden, which has multiple learning stations. More than 200 students participated in a pot-a-plant project and visited the Butterfly Lady, Judith Levicoff. A special thanks to Fiskars for its donation of tools.*

J. Gannon

PBS IN PRISON?!? *Harry Wiland from Wiland-Bell Productions and his film crew came to the city in July for several days of filming for the PBS documentary* Edens Lost and Found. *Philadelphia, along with Seattle, Chicago, and Los Angeles, will be featured as examples of cities using greening and environmental innovation as a part of urban rebirth. Look for this film to air on PBS in Fall 2005. (Pictured is historic Eastern State Penitentiary, which, by the way, is celebrating its 15th anniversary of volunteer involvement in the terrace plantings—congratulations!)*

FLOWERS FOR CITY BLOCKS *Over the past year, Philadelphia Green worked with neighborhood leaders, community organizations and residents in five neighborhoods to create streets lined with lush container plantings, or "garden blocks." PG staff conducted workshops, sharing planting and maintenance tips. All told, 43 blocks were transformed. (Pictured is Willard Street in Kensington.)*

J. Gannon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

McLean Library Book Sale

Wednesday, October 6, 10 am – 5 pm

Mark your calendar to attend the McLean Library Book Sale at PHS headquarters (20th & Arch Streets). Buy new gardening books at a discount and used gardening classics at exceptional prices. Book donations will be accepted until September 24, 2004. For more information, please contact Josie Miller at 215-988-8772 or *jmiller@pennhort.org* (Author chats and book signings will be held 12 – 1:30 pm.)

Fall for Your Park

Saturday, October 16, 9 am – 1 pm

Fall For Your Park is an annual event in which Philadelphia Green partners with the Department of Recreation, the Fairmount Park Commission, and park groups around the city to do a major cleanup in one park. This year, the event will be held at **Fisher Park** (5th & Spencer Streets in Olney). For more info on how you can help out, contact Paul Bonfanti at 215-988-8878 or *pbonfanti@pennhort.org.*

United Way Gifts

Fall marks the kick-off of the annual United Way campaign. Please consider making a donation to PHS through the United Way Donor Option program. Simply note our **Donor Option ID #06197** on your United Way pledge card for 2005. Your support helps Philadelphia Green beautify the city!

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

These workshops are presented at neighborhood branches of the Free Library and other locations throughout the city. For information on upcoming workshops, please contact Marilyn Reynolds at *citygardening@pennhort.org* or 215-988-8872, or browse the calendar on the PHS website: *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org.*

Growing Gardens

(continued from page 1)

"It's truly inspiring," says Philadelphia Green director Mike Groman. "Gardens like these are living examples of the power of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's mission 'to create a sense of community and improve the quality of life through horticulture'."

– Jane Carroll

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Green City Strategy

PHS Receives a Second City Contract for Greening

Greening works! That's the message of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Green City Strategy, which is helping to make dramatic improvements in neighborhoods and downtown locations throughout Philadelphia. In the past year, hundreds of tons of debris have been removed from vacant lots, creating "clean & green" spaces where crumbling, abandoned buildings once stood, and residents are coming together to help transform their environment.

Paco Verin

In October, 5,000 crocus bulbs were planted at the Lovett Memorial Library in Mt. Airy by neighbors, the Friends of Lovett Library, and Philadelphia Green, one of many NTI projects completed in the past year. This 120-foot winding path of bulbs, which complements new seating and other improvements to the library's green space, will be in full bloom come early March.

With a one-year contract from the city as part of Mayor John Street's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, PHS, through its Philadelphia Green program, carried out a variety of projects designed to demonstrate the powerful impact of greening.

Highlights of the 2003-04 accomplishments include:

- **Stabilization** of nearly 1,300 parcels of derelict vacant land (about one-third more than the initial goal).
- Development of a successful program for **community-based maintenance** that employs local residents.
- **Landscape improvements** along high-profile community corridors.
- Enhancement projects at new and existing **community gardens** and **neighborhood parks**.
- Completion of **garden blocks**, where plants and sidewalk containers were distributed to nearly 900 residents.
- Creation of a new "City Gardening Series" of **free lectures** and **workshops** held at community locations through the city.

As the city moves forward with its Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI), it has awarded a second contract to PHS for Fiscal Year 2005 to continue this important work in selected neighborhoods. The plan for the second year will build on the successes of the first 12 months. In particular, PHS will work with the city to identify vacant lots in strategic locations that have the most potential impact on the surrounding community. The cleaning of these lots will combine land management with quality-of-life issues, such as safety and security, community development, and environmental concerns (particularly stormwater runoff).

"An ambitious, citywide effort like the Green City Strategy cannot succeed without the backing of Philadelphia's political, business, and community leaders." notes Blaine Bonham, executive vice president of PHS. "Community involvement also is essential, not only to carry out some of the physical work of transforming the city, but also to send a message to city officials that residents consider green space important."

– Jane Carroll

City Gardening Series

These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*. (Note: more events may have been added after press deadline. Please browse the calendar on the PHS website for updates: *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org)*

Cooking with Herbs

Wednesday, November 10, 6 – 7 pm
Independence Branch, Free Library
18 S. 7th Street

Eva Monheim demonstrates ways to enhance the flavors of food using fresh herbal ingredients from the garden.

Evergreen Shrubs in Containers

Wednesday, November 17, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Holmesburg Branch, Free Library
7810 Frankford Avenue

Garden designer **Toni Ann Flanigan** shows how to have an attractive container garden year-round using evergreen shrubs.

SAVE THE DATES

City Gardens Contest Exhibit at Liberty Place

November 8 - 10

Photographs of all of the winning gardens of PHS's City Gardens Contest will be on display at the Shops at Liberty Place, 16th and Chestnut Streets, in the main rotunda. Don't miss it! (And, for a list of this year's winners in the Contest, visit our website: *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org)*

Ribbon of Gold at Eastern State Penitentiary

15th Anniversary celebration
November 13, 11 am – 1 pm
(program at 12 noon)

Come join the celebration as the volunteers who tend the terrace plantings at this historic site celebrate 15 years of fruitful work. You'll find the party—complete with cake, balloons, and music—at Eastern State Penitentiary's main entrance at 2124 Fairmount Avenue.

Brown-Bag Lunch: How to Enter Your Favorite Plants in The Philadelphia Flower Show

Tuesday, November 16, 12 noon - 1 pm
PHS Auditorium

This free program is designed for the novice and will remove any trace of mystery about how to enter your plants in the Horticulture Classes at the Flower Show. We'll guide you through the process, from filling out the pre-registration forms to final grooming of your plant at the Show. Feel free to bring your plants for grooming suggestions. Bring a lunch; PHS will supply refreshments. Please call 215-988-8869 to register. (Pre-registration is required for this event.)

Darlene Marcus

Viery Ricketts-Thomas

In the Spotlight: Darlene Marcus & Viery Ricketts-Thomas

Glenwood Green Acres has long been one of Philadelphia Green's celebrity gardens, featured on postcards, at the program's Flower Show exhibit, and as a popular stop on many a tour. Many folks know about the legendary James Taylor, who helped start the garden in 1983, but you may not know about the "second generation" of Darlene Marcus and Viery ("Vy") Ricketts-Thomas.

For their garden club, Darlene is vice president and Vy serves as treasurer. And together with Mr. Taylor (who, Darlene says, still does *a lot* of work at the garden), they somehow keep order on a site that boasts over 100 garden plots.

Both Darlene and Vy work at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and somehow make time for the garden. "You want to do it," says Vy, "so you just find the time to do it." Darlene's a life-long resident of this North Philadelphia community, while Vy, originally from Jamaica, commutes from Overbrook. Both serve on Philadelphia Green's Advisory Board.

In addition to their gardening passion, Darlene and Vy help their communities in other ways. Vy is president of Helping Hand Ministry at her church, where she visits the elderly and organizes birthday celebrations. Darlene is vice president of her block's Just Us Neighbors, which also provides for the elderly through activities like celebrations and trips.

Darlene and Vy obviously get a lot out of their community work and their investment in Glenwood Green Acres and they see what draws people to gardening. "Gardening keeps people going," notes Darlene. Vy adds that the time she and Darlene set aside for the garden is always more than they plan for. "It's never just an hour," she says.

Photos by J. Gannon

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

Photos by J. Gannon

PHILADELPHIA GREEN PARTICIPATES IN PARK WALK

On a beautiful Sunday morning in September, about 450 people participated in the first annual Walk for the Park. *Organized by the Fairmount Park Commission, this was an effort to raise awareness and funds for the Fairmount Park system, including neighborhood parks throughout the city. Over 40 park groups came out, and Philadelphia Green sent an enthusiastic contingent of staff to join in the fun. Somehow, both Ben Franklin and city founder William Penn (pictured) were able to travel through time and be on hand to cheer on the walkers.*

CITIZENS BANK HELPS CARROLL PARK

In an event coordinated by Philadelphia Green, employees of Citizens Bank came out to help clean up Carroll Park in West Philadelphia. Together with the Friends of Carroll Park and other neighbors, the Citizens helped mulch, sweep, and tidy up this flourishing park. "They didn't just show up, they really worked hard," reports park project coordinator Leslie Schuster. This is one of five greening projects that these volunteers are participating in, which augments Citizens Bank's generous $50,000 grant toward Philadelphia Green projects.

NEW PLANTINGS FOR THE ART MUSEUM

Visitors to the Philadelphia Museum of Art over the past few years have taken notice of the new landscape that now graces this cultural institution, which Philadelphia Green continues to refine. "With the trees in the East Forecourt having grown, it's become shadier there," explains PG associate director Nancy O'Donnell. "So, we've replaced the low holly hedge with boxwood in the Forecourt's southern niche." (Pictured is staff from All Seasons Landscaping, who installed the new planting.)

BIKE TOUR OF HISTORIC TREES

In October, PG project manager Mindy Maslin and Hal Rosner of Bartlett Tree Experts led a group of interested tree-seekers on a bike tour of the historic and notable trees of the Navy Yard in South Philadelphia. The tour is a part of Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders project, which teaches city residents how to care for their neighborhood trees.

PHS Hosts Conference on Urban Trees

Where the Roots Hit the Curb: Urban Tree Planting - Toward Best Practices

Friday, November 5, 2004, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
The Franklin Institute, 20th Street & the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia
Open to the public, members and professionals

PHS, in conjunction with the City Parks Association, Penn State Urban and Community Forestry Program, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, and TreeVitalize, will present a one-day conference on urban trees. National experts will discuss ways to reduce the conflict between city trees and urban infrastructure. Speakers include James Urban, noted landscape architect; urban tree advocate Larry Costello, of UC Davis; and Nina Bassuk, of the Urban Horticulture Institute at Cornell. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions, discuss problems, and share their own stories from the field.

Advance registration is required. The fee is $75 per person, including continental breakfast and buffet lunch ($85 at the door); scholarships are available. (Interested exhibitors may contact *mahunter@comcast.net* or 215-485-0509.)

For more information, please contact Mindy Maslin at *treetenders@pennhort.org* or 215-988-8844.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

PHS Receives William Penn Foundation Grant

J. Gannon

PHS advocates a "Green City Strategy" for Philadelphia. Pictured is a view from the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The William Penn Foundation has awarded a two-year, $2 million grant to PHS for greening and community organizing efforts through its Philadelphia Green program. The new funding will help expand the reach of some of Philadelphia Green's ongoing initiatives, such as the Parks Revitalization Project, the Garden Tenders and Tree Tenders training courses, and other horticultural education efforts. It also provides support for several new partnerships and opportunities:

- **A new collaboration between Philadelphia Green and The Reinvestment Fund (TRF)**, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit organization that promotes socially and environmentally responsible development in low-income communities. Philadelphia Green will implement landscape improvements and vacant land stabilization near economic revitalization projects currently being supported by TRF in two neighborhoods—Brewerytown and the area around LaSalle University.

- **Technical advisor to the Schuylkill River Development Corporation**, which is working to complete the Schuylkill River Park along the river in Center City. Philadelphia Green will offer expertise on landscape planning, design, construction, and maintenance management, as well as community outreach.

- **An effort in West Philadelphia to revitalize six neighborhood parks and initiate a greening plan** for Lancaster Avenue, working with local community organizations, residents and other stakeholders.

- **A comprehensive greening strategy for the South Central Philadelphia area**, including an action plan, a network of community residents, a street-tree inventory, demonstration projects, and a new neighborhood park.

- **Improvements for two neighborhood parks in New Kensington** in collaboration with local community organizations and residents.

"We're excited by the opportunity to work with new partners and in areas of the city where Philadelphia Green has not worked before," says Mike Groman, senior director of Philadelphia Green. Philadelphia Green will be guided by an advisory committee comprised of key public and private stakeholders and investors, including The Reinvestment Fund and the Foundation.

The **William Penn Foundation** has been supporting Philadelphia Green for over 15 years. Founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas, the Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia region through efforts that foster rich cultural expression, strengthen children's futures, and deepen connections to nature and community. Learn more about the Foundation online at *www.williampennfoundation.org*.

Philadelphia Flower Show
March 6 – 13, 2005
Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia
www.theflowershow.com

General Admission

Adults: $26 on Opening Sunday (March 6), $24 weekends and $22 weekdays.
Children aged 2 to 12: $12 (good any day)
Advance tickets: $20
Group tickets (20 or more people): $19.50

For more information, please visit *www.theflowershow.com* or call 215-988-8899 (recorded information).

Avoid the crowds! The best viewing times are from 3 pm until closing.

Greening is a Good Investment!
(see inside)

Flower Show Preview

The original iron gates to the White House, on loan from the American Horticultural Society, will serve as the portal to the **2005 Philadelphia Flower Show, "America the Beautiful."** The Show, a celebration of the American gardener, will be held March 6 through 13 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. **PNC Bank** is the presenting sponsor.

The **Central Feature** exhibits will explore the many facets of American gardening. In "Country Casual & City Chic," designed by **Burke Brothers Landscape Contractors, Inc.**, Show guests will come upon a casual country lane where the gardens evoke a relaxed lifestyle and an old-fashioned cottage garden surrounding a rustic farmhouse conjures memories of the past. A suburban outdoor living area provides a pleasurable view and many practical ideas for outdoor entertaining and recreation. The next display celebrates the wide variety of urban gardening possibilities, from window boxes and sidewalk planters to chic terraces and rooftop dining.

Bartlett Tree Experts will stage "Tree House, USA." At first glance, a stately stand of trees surrounded by a meadow of colorful wildflowers appear, but as viewers explore further, they will encounter secluded tree houses. Finally, the **Washington National Cathedral** returns to the Flower Show with "For All Occasions," where the talented arrangers of the Cathedral's Flower Guild will create floral and plant designs representative of those created for the many celebrations occurring at the cathedral.

Throughout the Show, more than 50 landscape, floral, educational, and non-for-profit organizations will compete for the coveted **"Best in Show" award** in each category. In the Horticourt, individual growers vie for ribbons with impeccable specimens of lovingly tended plants, from rare orchids and cacti to everyday daffodils and tulips.

PHS will mount special displays highlighting its **Philadelphia Green** program, as well as the **Gold Medal Plant Award Program**. As always, visitors can enjoy a variety of activities at the Show throughout each day, including **lectures, workshops, and demonstrations; the Borders Book Fair; Gardener's Studio; cooking demonstrations; the elegant Afternoon Tea; shopping in the Marketplace; and other attractions.**

Floyd Limbos, Doylestown, PA

Revenues generated by the Philadelphia Flower Show help support the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's programs, including Philadelphia Green.

In the Spotlight: Allison Gardner

In the Tioga area of western North Philadelphia, Allison Gardner has been an important part of the community since she moved there 16 years ago. One of her first projects was reviving the Thurman McClendon Community Garden. She spent so much time there, she laughs that she became known as the "The Garden Lady."

Allison is a key player of Tioga United, a volunteer community organization committed to improving the quality of life for the neighborhood. Part of Allison's involvement has been to get youth involved in horticulture and community projects. Through Tioga United, she has also been a key part of the transformation of Jerome Brown Park as well as a group that helps clean up vacant lots in the neighborhood. This "maintenance" program, organized by Philadelphia Green and funded by the city's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, was designed to keep vacant lots clean and free of debris. Allison helped to scout sites for the program, and she serves as the main liaison in Tioga for this work.

"Greening really has made an impact in our community," she says, adding that not only do the vacant lots look better, but neighbors are "taking on responsibility" and better care of their own properties and yards.

Allison, a graduate of both Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders and Garden Tenders courses, joined the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board last year. It's a wonder that she's able to find the time to squeeze even more good work into her daily life. (By the way, Allison has also raised three children—ages 25, 21 & 13. And during the day she is a body mechanic and bus painter for SEPTA— the first woman to hold this position.)

"Horticulture can do wonders for any community," says Allison on why she does what she does. "Anywhere you live, it can make a world of difference. That's why I haven't backed off."

Floyd Limbos, Doylestown, PA

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

Pete Prown

FISHER PARK GETS MAKEOVER

Philadelphia Green's annual Fall for Your Park event partners with the community, the Department of Recreation and the Fairmount Park Commission. This year, more than 350 volunteers—many from park groups throughout the city—helped transform Fisher Park in the city's Olney section.

J. Gannon

TREES FOR CHRISTIAN STREET

On a chilly Saturday morning in November, PG staff joined with 25 neighbors to plant street trees along the 1100 block of Christian Street in the city's Hawthorne neighborhood. This is one of many projects of TreeVitalize, a four-year program initiated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to plant 20,000 trees throughout the five-county area.

CITY GARDENERS STROLL RED CARPET

PHS's City Gardens Contest recognizes the skillful and imagining gardening of Philadelphia residents and offers them the opportunity to compete for prizes in several gardening categories. Around 450 people attended the annual awards ceremony at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. For a complete list of the winners, please visit the PHS website:
www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org

F. Narducci

Wharton Study Finds Greening Good Investment

The Wharton School Real Estate Department of the University of Pennsylvania has released a report that looks at how greening impacts real estate values in the city's New Kensington area (comprising parts of Fishtown, Kensington, and Port Richmond).

The research indicates that there is a 30% rise in prices for homes adjacent to vacant lots that have been cleaned and greened. Moreover, tree plantings showed a 9% increase in the value of homes within 50 feet of a street tree.

New Kensington was the site of a community-based vacant land management program initially coordinated and managed by Philadelphia Green in partnership with the New Kensington Community Development Corporation. It was funded by the city's Office of Housing and Community Development.

"We were always convinced that greening has a tremendously positive impact on communities," says J. Blaine Bonham Jr., Executive Vice President of PHS. "The Wharton findings quantify the true impact in dollars and cents."

For more information on the Wharton study, visit the Philadelphia Green section of *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

The City Gardening Series will feature several workshops during January. Held at neighborhood branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia and at other city locations, these workshops are free and open to the public. For a list of upcoming workshops, please contact Marilyn Reynolds at *citygardening@pennhort.org* or 215-988-8872, or browse the calendar on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*.

PHS Wins AIA Award

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) presented PHS with its fourth annual AIA Philadelphia Urban Design Committee Award at a ceremony on December 2. The award was established to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the quality of the urban environment in the Philadelphia region.

PHS was honored for creating the Green City Strategy, which calls for major investments in Philadelphia's green spaces.

Save the Date:

Saturday, February 5

People, Power, and Public Green Spaces

On February 5, PHS will collaborate with the Philadelphia Parks Alliance and the national City Parks Alliance to host a regional green space advocacy conference, **People, Power, and Public Green Spaces**. The conference will be held at the Moore College of Art and Design at 20th & Race Streets. For more information, call Dawn Waters at 215-988-8845 or email *dwaters@pennhort.org*.

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Philadelphia Green at the Flower Show

Pete Prown

The 2004 Philadelphia Green exhibit

Join us as we celebrate "America the Beautiful" at the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show, March 6 through 13 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The original iron gates to the White House, on loan from the American Horticultural Society, form the entrance to an array of classic American gardens. Enjoy, learn and get inspired by great gardens and landscapes, as well as thousands of plants and floral designs.

For years, visitors to the Flower Show have enjoyed the display by PHS's **Philadelphia Green** program. This year's offering will showcase Philadelphia Green's wide range of initiatives, highlighting the program's impact on the city. Through images, narration, and a series of interviews, a special presentation will focus on an underlying theme: "Live, grow, and thrive in a green Philadelphia."

"We'll be showing the economic, social, physical, and environmental benefits that greening has in Philadelphia," notes Eva Ray, PHS education director. In addition, large photographic murals will capture the effort and spirit of Philadelphia Green. And just in case you were wondering: "Oh, of course there will also be flowers!," laughs Eva.

PHS extends generous thanks once again to Bartlett Tree Experts for sponsoring the Philadelphia Green exhibit at the Flower Show. The exhibit will be located just to the left of the ever-popular Flower Show Shoppe on the main Show floor.

And, for the first time, Philadelphia Green's display will be linked with **PHS's Gold Medal Plant exhibit**. "It just made sense for us to showcase PHS's programs together," explains Eva. This display will entice visitors with the winners of PHS's Gold Medal Plant Award—outstanding trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers that thrive in our growing region (Zones 5 – 7). Expert volunteers from the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association (PLNA) will again be on hand to answer questions about Gold Medal winners as well as PHS and PLNA.

Philadelphia Flower Show
March 6 – 13, 2005

Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia

www.theflowershow.com

General Admission

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Group tickets (20 or more people): $19.50

For more information, please visit *www.theflowershow.com* or call 215-988-8899 (recorded information).

Avoid the crowds! The best viewing times are from 3 pm until closing.

Philadelphia Green Brunch

Join us on **Sunday, March 13 at 11:30 am** for the annual **Philadelphia Green Brunch** at the Flower Show. This year, we'll be honoring the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, as 2005 marks its 25th anniversary! Your brunch ticket ($30) includes admission to the Flower Show. For reservations, call Kay Gramiak at 215-988-8861.

Tackling Stormwater Management

Philadelphia Green Partners with the Water Department

In cities, especially older cities with old infrastructure like Philadelphia, the water from storms can wreak havoc. Often, stormwater overwhelms the city's sewer systems, and the combined overflow of stormwater, waste, and creek water ends up as pollution in our rivers. The ultimate solution, of course, is a 21st century sewer system, but that would involve a daunting, massively expensive undertaking. In the foreseeable future, there is more practical approach to managing stormwater runoff. It's called "stormwater management," and it also creates additional open space opportunities for neighborhoods.

In fall 2003, Philadelphia Green partnered with the city's Water Department to develop models for stormwater management utilizing several sites of vacant land in North Philadelphia. With funds awarded through the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program, several sites were installed with shallow trenches and berms to keep rainfall on the site so it can filter naturally back into the ground. "The aim is to hold water on a site for no longer than 24 hours," says Joy Lawrence, Philadelphia Green's manager of environmental initiatives. (It is important to note that this approach will *not* cause an accumulation of stagnant water that mosquitoes so love.)

Joy adds that the partnership has been "a perfect fit" for both organizations. The Water Department (PWD) brings its technical, engineering know-how to the project, while Philadelphia Green brings its expertise in greening and landscaping, as well as its education initiatives and ability to build strong community groups.

So, what's next for this partnership? Philadelphia Green has been contracted by PWD to support a series of demonstration projects this spring, including sites in West Philadelphia, East Falls, and South Philadelphia. Philadelphia Green will provide landscape design, community organizing, and horticultural training. Cahill Associates, an environmental consulting group, is also on board.

"It's been a rewarding and emerging relationship," says Joy, who notes that Philadelphia Green and PWD will again join forces to apply for a second round of Growing Greener funds from the State to continue this work.

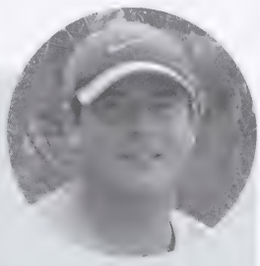
What the heck is an "infiltrometer"?

"It's a device used to measure how much stormwater the ground can absorb," explains Shawn Kilgallon, Philadelphia Green design services project coordinator. Using an infiltrometer requires a Zen-like patience. To test the existing conditions of vacant lots (before they were retrofitted for stormwater management), staff poured water into the infiltrometer at 15-minute intervals (over at least a six-hour period!), each time measuring the amount of water that went into the ground and timing the speed of this process. Pictured left-to-right is Justin DiBerardinis, Paco Verin, and Shawn sinking the device into the not-so-soft soil of a vacant lot. Don't try this at home!

L. McDonald-Hanes

J. Gannon

In the Spotlight: Jonathan Eells



Pay a visit to PHS headquarters any time from the spring through the fall and you'll most likely wander past something special on the other side of Arch Street. Here, on the site of a 1930s-era gas station, a wonderful garden has developed over the past several years. The "Gas Station Garden"—as it's affectionately called—received a new "shot in the arm" in 2000, thanks to Jonathan Eells and a dedicated group of volunteers from the Logan Square neighborhood. With support from Philadelphia Green and the Logan Square Neighborhood Association, this garden has become one of the gems of the community.

A South Jersey transplant, Jonathan says he's been gardening for "as long as I can remember." Jonathan's able to enjoy the garden every day, as he walks by it on his commute to work as a software developer and systems analyst, and he's learned it's appreciated by many. "When we're working in the garden, we're always getting great compliments from passers-by," he says. "People get a lot of enjoyment out of it."

Jonathan's gardening reach also extends beyond this popular site. He helps out at the "Triangle Garden," which greets cars exiting the Vine Street Expressway at 23rd Street, as well as with the terrace plantings at historic Eastern State Penitentiary. He has also volunteered at the Flower Show for the past few years; this year he'll be one of the ever-helpful Ambassadors on the Show floor. "I'm looking forward to it," he says. "It will be fun answering questions and helping visitors get around the Flower Show."

Spring Cleaning for Philly Parks

Save the Date: May 7

Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project announces its seventh annual **Spring Into Your Park**, scheduled for May 7. Since 1999, Philadelphia Green has partnered with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and community friends groups throughout the city to welcome in the new growing season by celebrating and cultivating in our parks. Come join the fun and show your support for community open spaces!

For more information about the many city-wide activities happening on this day, or to find out about a park near you, please contact Kim Massare at 215-988-1611 or email *kmassare@pennhort.org*.

J. Gannon

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

The City Gardening Series features workshops that are free and open to the pubic. For more information, please contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or email *citygardening@pennhort.org*, or browse the calendar on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*. We welcome the Chanticleer Foundation as a new partner in this initiative.

Gardening with Kids

Wednesday, March 16, 6 – 7 pm
Donatucci Free Library of Philadelphia
1935 Shunk Street

South Asian Cooking from the Garden

Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Independence Free Library of Philadelphia
18 S. 7th Street

Planning the Spring Garden

Wednesday, March 30, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Penn Alexander Partnership School
4209 Spruce Street

Environmentally Friendly Gardening

Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 – 8:30 pm
Chestnut Hill Free Library of Philadelphia
8711 Germantown Avenue

The Low Maintenance Garden

Wednesday, April 20, 7 – 8 pm
Andorra Free Library of Philadelphia
705 E. Cathderal Road

Designing & Planting Window Boxes

Wednesday, April 27, 6 – 7 pm
Donatucci Free Library of Philadelphia
1935 Shunk Street

Free Lecture Series

PHS and the Wagner Free Institute of Science will co-sponsor a multi-session course: *Plant Exploration in Early America: Gardens, Herbaria and Art.* This course is free and open to the public and will be held in the PHS Auditorium. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required. To register, please call the Wagner Institute at 215-763-6529, ext. 23.

Plant Exploration in Early America: Gardens, Herbaria and Art

Four Mondays, March 28 – April 18, 6:30 pm
There also will be two field trips following these sessions.
PHS Auditorium

From the late 17th century to the late 19th century, new plant discoveries in North America attracted the attention of botanists and horticulturists in Europe and America. Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler will discuss the links among explorers, gardeners, artists and authors during the golden age of botany.

The Urban Garden: Pits, Plots & the Window Box

Saturday, April 30, 10 am – 1 pm
Trinity Center for Urban Life
Trinity Church, 22nd & Spruce Streets

The Trinity Center for Urban Life, in collaboration with PHS, will present a program on the secrets to successful urban gardening. This will feature a presentation on urban gardening by expert Toni Ann Flanigan, followed by a guided walking tour of award-winning private gardens in Center City. The program will be offered at 10 am, 11 am and noon. Advanced registration is required: please call 215-732-2515 to reserve a place. Specify your time preference: 10 am, 11 am or noon. Please note: admission is $5 per person.

Kids Grow Expo at Temple Ambler Campus

Save the Date: Friday, April 22

This year, the **Kids Grow Expo** will again partner with Temple University's EarthFest, an outdoor educational festival at Temple's Ambler campus. "The theme for this year's Expo, *Water…works*, is a topic we hope teachers and educators can use to further their students' knowledge and understanding of the importance of water as a natural resource," says Flossie Narducci, PHS special events manager.

Held on **Friday, April 22** (Earth Day), this event will allow youngsters to celebrate Earth Day with a number of activities and interactive displays related to environmental awareness. There will be educational exhibits, service learning projects and competitive classes. The Kids Grow Expo is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897 or email *fnarducci@pennhort.org*.

J. Gannon

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Send address changes to:
Diane Humphries, address above
or email *addrchange@pennhort.org*

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City Hall in Bloom

Save the Date: May 17

Help beautify City Hall on this festive planting day. The annual **City Hall in Bloom** event is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 17**. Please call Joan Kapczynski at 215-988-8865 or email *jkapczynski@pennhort.org* for more info.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

New Partners for Philadelphia Green

J. Gannon

Philadelphia Green will be designing new youth programs with support from the National Recreation Foundation

In addition to proceeds from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Flower Show, PHS's Philadelphia Green program receives support from foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals. Here are some notable new developments from both old and new supporters:

The Chanticleer Foundation, a sponsor of PHS's Gold Medal Plant Award program, will provide resources for the Philadelphia Green City Gardening Series. This project offers free classes and workshops to residents throughout Philadelphia, with sessions held at neighborhood branches of the Free Library and other community locations (for information on upcoming workshops, look inside this newsletter; you can also visit the PHS website and click on "Calendar"). Through Philadelphia Green, Chanticleer will also welcome city residents for group tours of its renowned garden, located in Wayne, PA.

Another returning donor is the **National Recreation Foundation**, which previously provided a three-year grant to fund park patrols—youth groups that work in parks as part of Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project. In Fall 2003, the Foundation's board held its annual meeting in Philadelphia and had a chance to visit neighborhoods in which Philadelphia Green works. Twelve months later, the Board approved a $200,000 grant for PHS to design new youth programs in conjunction with schools in some of these neighborhoods. Once implemented, the new initiative, called Green City Youth, will combine classroom instruction with hands-on improvement projects in the neighborhoods.

In West Philadelphia, the Saunders Park/West Powelton neighborhood will see improvements to its Lancaster Avenue business corridor and to the area's only public green space, Saunders Park, thanks to a first-time grant from **Bank of America**. Philadelphia Green will work with the community and key partners to enhance the park with new trees, new entranceways, and improved planting beds. Along Lancaster Avenue, between 38th and 44th Streets, Philadelphia Green will plant street trees and implement other streetscape improvements, such as fencing, plantings, and artwork.

Finally, a new partner is **Environmental Resources Management (ERM)**, the world's largest all-environmental consulting firm. Recently, the ERM Group Foundation, with contributions from ERM employees, has provided funds for improvement projects at the Summer/Winter Garden in the Powelton section of West Philadelphia. Citizens Bank, a supporter of PHS's Green City Strategy, will help finance additional enhancements at this "keystone" garden.

Stay tuned to future issues of *Philadelphia Green News* for updates on these and other projects.

Pledge to Plant a Tree!
(see inside for details)

International Competition to Focus on Philadelphia's Vacant Land

Save the Date: Community Forum on Thursday, May 5

Philadelphia's 40,000 neglected, vacant lots are a manifestation of the blight that creeps in when urban areas are drained of jobs and residents.

Recognizing that vacant land is also fertile ground for change and renewal, the Philadelphia-based City Parks Association has brought together key partners—PHS, The Reinvestment Fund, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council—to collaborate on an international design competition called *Philadelphia Land Visions.*

"This competition will generate new thinking about the future of Philadelphia's vacant land," says Deenah Loeb, co-chair of the City Parks Association. "It will focus on creating a vision for Philadelphia that takes an ecological approach, looking at the city's land and water as valuable resources."

The first step will be to solicit input from a broad range of Philadelphia residents in an interactive visioning process—"Our Voices, Our Future." With extensive experience in community empowerment through its Philadelphia Green program, PHS will manage this phase of the project. The visioning sessions will include innovative techniques such as digital imaging and keypad polling, allowing participants to give immediate feedback. Community comments will then be included in materials sent to everyone who enters the competition.

"We want to make sure that everyone has a chance to share his or her vision for their community," says Blaine Bonham Jr., executive vice president of PHS.

Following the visioning sessions, entrants from around the world will be asked to imaging new possibilities for designing a comprehensive view of the urban fabric based upon the relationship of ecology and the built environment.

Funding for the project comes from the Philadelphia Office of Housing and Community Development, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Samuel S. Fels Fund. Technical assistance will be provided by the Van Alen Institute, a New York-based design competition management organization, and PlaceMatters.com, a community planning and decision-making consulting firm.

The first community forum, which is open to the public, will be held on May 5, 4 – 8 pm at 30th Street Station's North Waiting Room. Please call Yvonne Connolly at 215-988-8896 or email *philalandvisions@pennhort.org* for more information.

For updates on this project, visit: *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org.*

In the Spotlight: Iris Brown Receives International Award

Iris Brown, chair of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and a member of PHS Council and the Education Services Committee, has received the Terre de Femmes (Women of the Earth) Award from the Yves Rocher Foundation.

The Yves Rocher Foundation, based in France, is the charitable arm of the Yves Rocher beauty company. It established the award in 2001, but this is the first time it is going to those in the United States.

For about 15 years, Iris Brown has been creating community gardens in her Norris Square neighborhood in North Philadelphia. A staff member of the Norris Square Neighborhood Project, Iris helps run programs for children and their families, using the thriving Norris Square gardens to help preserve and share the neighborhood's Puerto Rican heritage and traditional culture.

Last summer, Iris sat down for an interview at Las Parcelas, a vibrant community garden that's a main gathering place for the neighborhood, and she talked about the impact of this cherished space. "It makes everyone happy just to have people together, with the stories and the sharing. The garden has become such a positive place for the community in so many ways. I don't know how to describe it because…it's in here," she says, pointing to her heart.

Iris and two other American prize winners were invited to Paris to receive the award and participate in the Terre de Femmes International Ceremony, which took place on International Women's Day, March 8. Congratulations, Iris!

Plant a Tree Today!

TreeVitalize Aims to Restore Trees in Southeastern PA

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell last spring announced the creation of a new public-private partnership called **TreeVitalize**, which aims to plant 20,000 trees in southeastern Pennsylvania, including Philadelphia. The goal is to reverse the rapid disappearance of our region's tree cover (the percentage of land shaded by trees).

To fund this ambitious project, the commonwealth has committed $2 million through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and additional $1 million from the Department of Environmental Protection. Additional financial support comes from the William Penn Foundation; Aqua Pennsylvania; the Philadelphia Eagles; the USDA Forest Service; and PECO, an Exelon Company.

TreeVitalize Pledge

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

State.....

Zip.....

Email.....

Phone.....

Are you a PHS member? ☐ yes ☐ no

I pledge to purchase a tree between April 1 and June 30, 2005 and plant it in southeastern Pennsylvania. I understand that by pledging to plant a tree, I am contributing to the recovery of the tree canopy in the region. I agree to be contacted by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to verify my pledge.

Return to: PHS TreeVitalize Pledge, 100 N. 20th St., Philadelphia PA 19103

You can help by pledging to plant a tree in your local community or on your own property.

Take the TreeVitalize Pledge

PHS invites you to join the effort to plant 1,000 trees this spring in the five-county Philadelphia region—and receive cash back on your purchase. **Purchase and plant a tree by June 30, and you could be eligible to receive a rebate from PHS of 25%, up to $25, on the cost of your new tree.** Trees must be planted in southeastern Pennsylvania.

To participate, please fill out and return the pledge card and follow the instructions below. For more information, please call 215-988-8800 or visit our website: *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org.*

Proof of Planting Rebate

The first 1,000 people who send in a "Proof of Planting" could qualify for a rebate of 25% or up to $25 on the cost of the tree. For consideration, please send a sales receipt for a purchased tree to:

PHS, Proof of Planting Rebate
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia PA 19103

Sales receipt must be dated April 1 through June 30, 2005. Receipt must clearly state the dollar amount you paid for the tree and that you have purchased a tree (not a shrub). Merchant validation is acceptable. No confirmations will be sent. Qualified rebates (limited to one per household) will be issued by PHS four to six weeks following receipt of your "Proof of Planting." Merchants are not responsible for any rebate or related promotion.

TreeVitalize
A partnership to restore tree cover in Southeast PA

www.treevitalize.net

Sign up for Garden Tenders

Philadelphia Green's **Garden Tenders** is a self-help training course for community groups and non-profit organizations within the city of Philadelphia that are interested in starting community gardens on vacant lots in neighborhoods, parks, or around schools and churches. The responsibility for creating and maintaining a garden belongs to each group. Participants learn how to get gardens started and how to keep them going. The training course offers basic organizational information that helps groups to establish successful, self-sustaining community gardens. Upon completion of training, graduates are invited to attend additional gardening workshops.

The next Garden Tenders basic training is on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-8:30 on May 17, 24, 31 and June 7, and Saturday, May 21 from 10-1.

- The 15-hour (five sessions) "basic training" course contains a mix of practical information: obtaining permission to use sites; identifying community assets and resources; and developing community networks. *Please note: this is not a "how-to-garden" course.*
- At least three members from each group are encouraged to attend the basic training course.
- Registration for Garden Tenders is limited to Philadelphia residents.
- Pre-registration for the course is required. To register, please call Dawn Waters at 215-988-8845. **The deadline to register is May 5, 2005.** For more information, call 215-988-8800.

City Gardening Series, Presented by Philadelphia Green

These workshops are free (*except where noted) and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or browse the calendar on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*, for any updates.

All about Annuals

Monday, May 2, 7 – 8 pm
Katharine Drexel Free Library
11099 Knights Road

Horticultural therapist Mona Gold shares information on the many uses of annuals to brighten the garden from spring through fall.

The Low Maintenance Garden

Wednesday, May 4, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Overbrook Park Free Library
7422 Haverford Avenue

Environmental educator Charlotte Kidd gives tips and tricks to get the best from an easy care garden.

Designing Containers for the Small Garden

Monday, May 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Logan Free Library
1333 Wagner Avenue

Garden designer Toni Ann Flanigan shows how to have an attractive, creative container garden using a variety of plants.

Growing Perennials

Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Walnut Street West Free Library
210 S. 40th Street

Garden writer and educator Eva Monheim gives advice on soil preparation, planting, fertilizing and maintenance for the "backbone" of the flower garden.

Growing African Violets

Monday, May 16, 4 – 5 pm
Kingsessing Free Library
1201 S. 51st Street

Environmental educator Lori Hayes shares how these favorite houseplants, with proper care, will blossom throughout the year.

Gardening in Containers

Wednesday, May 18, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Tacony Free Library
6742 Torresdale Avenue

Charlotte Kidd demonstrates how to create an attractive container garden year-round using a variety of plants, including vegetables and flowers.

*Spring Bus Trip to Chanticleer

Thursday, May 19, 5 – 8:30 pm

Join us for an inspiring evening as we tour the 31-acre garden of Chanticleer in Wayne, PA. Buses will leave 100 N. 20th Street at 5 pm sharp, returning to Philadelphia by 8:30 pm. *There is a $5 fee; registration is required.* To register, call Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 by May 12.

Gardening with Kids

Monday, May 23, 4 – 5 pm
Eastwick Free Library
2851 Island Avenue

Horticultural educator Janet Carter demonstrates how gardening with kids can be a rewarding and learning experience for all.

Designing Hanging Baskets

Wednesday, May 25, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
West Oak Lane Free Library
2000 Washington Lane

Eva Monheim teaches basic know how and creativity in designing hanging baskets for any garden setting.

Herbal Hanging Baskets

Wednesday, June 1, 6 – 7 pm
South Philadelphia Free Library
1700 S. Broad Street

Charlotte Kidd shows how to successfully plant and grow herbs in baskets throughout the growing season.

P. Prown

Perennials in the Garden

Wednesday, June 8, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Frankford Free Library
4634 Frankford Avenue

Janet Carter offers advice about selecting plants, choosing the right spot, and planting techniques for growing perennials in the garden.

Gardening with Kids

Wednesday, June 15, 7 – 8 pm
Chestnut Hill Free Library of Philadelphia
8711 Germantown Avenue

Eva Monheim will give information, ideas and tips for kids and their adult gardening partners.

Trees in Small Gardens

Wednesday, June 22, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Frankford Free Library
4634 Frankford Avenue

Lori Hayes, a devoted tree lover from the Fairmount Park Commission, talks about trees for a small garden setting.

Houseplants

Wednesday, June 29, 6 – 7 pm
South Philadelphia Free Library
1700 S. Broad Street

Mona Gold shares the basics of houseplants with tips on plant selection, design, watering and fertilizing, and bringing them out into the summer garden.

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

Photos by J. Gannon

Kids Stick Up for Their Parks

In late March, park-loving city residents joined Philadelphia Green and the Philadelphia Parks Alliance to support the City Council Budget Hearings for park funding. Representatives from the Fairmount Park Commission and Department of Recreation testified. Pictured are 5th graders from the Discovery Charter School on Parkside Avenue in West Philadelphia, who came to the hearings on a class field trip.

Bare Root Trees for Tree Tenders

Soon after the Flower Show closed up shop, a tractor trailer (all the way from Iowa!) delivered 450 bare-root trees to a site near the University of Pennsylvania. This has become an annual ritual for the Tree Tenders project, which teaches community groups tree care and planting skills. This year, 31 community groups purchased trees. Tree Tenders is also part of TreeVitalize, a public-private partnership which aims to plant thousands of trees in southeastern Pennsylvania. Want to help out? See "Plant a Tree Today" in this newsletter.

2005 City Gardens Contest Entrants and Volunteers Wanted

Since 1975, the PHS City Gardens Contest has celebrated the efforts of city gardeners who have transformed urban plots into flowering green havens. The City Gardens Contest continues to attract entries of all sizes and types, from tiny tucked-away spaces to enormous community gardens tended by people of all backgrounds. The contest is open to Philadelphia residents and is judged each July by volunteers.

To enter your garden, please complete and return the form at right by June 10, 2005. Winners receive $50, $25, and $10 gift certificates, as well as a one-year membership in The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

To volunteer as a judge or for more information, please contact Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897 or email *specialevents@pennhort.org*. (Note: you do not have to be a Philadelphia resident to volunteer as a judge.)

City Gardens Contest Entry Form

PG News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address of garden: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Email: _____

Check appropriate category:

Individual Gardens

- ☐ Individual Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Individual Flower Garden
- ☐ Combination Flower/Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Individual Container Garden
- ☐ Child's Garden

Community Gardens

- ☐ Community Vegetable Garden
- ☐ Community Flower/ Sitting Garden
- ☐ Combination Vegetable/ Flower Garden
- ☐ Children's Garden
- ☐ "Garden Block" with window boxes and sidewalk planters
- ☐ "The Greenest Block in Town" (street trees/front yards)

Return to:

PHS, City Gardens Contest
100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Save the Dates!

Spring into Your Park

Saturday, May 7

On Saturday, May 7, Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project will hold the seventh annual **Spring into Your Park**. Since 1999, Philadelphia Green has partnered with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation and community friends groups throughout the city to welcome in the new growing season by celebrating and cultivating our parks. Come join the fun and show your support for community open spaces!

For more information about the many city-wide activities happening on this day, or to find out about a park near you, please contact Kim Massare at 215-988-1611 or email *kmassare@pennhort.org.*

City Hall in Bloom

Tuesday, May 17

Help beautify City Hall on this festive planting day. The annual City Hall in Bloom event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17 from 9:30 am to noon (rain or shine). To volunteer, call Joan Kapczynski at 215-988-8865 or email *jkapczynski@pennhort.org* for more info. (Please leave name and number or email.)

Do you have room to grow?

Does your community garden have open plots and need new members? Are you a gardener looking for a community garden to join? If you need help finding people or a garden, contact Paco Verin, community garden project coordinator, at 215-988-8885.

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Envisioning the Future of Philadelphia's Vacant Land

M. Funderburg

City Hall was the site for one of the three interactive visioning sessions for Philadelphia LANDvisions.

Travelers passing through 30th Street Station in early May were probably puzzled by the sight of 350 people engaged in passionate roundtable discussions, surrounded by huge video screens with vote tallies that seemed to change by the second. This event was one of three interactive visioning sessions where community leaders, residents, planners, and others gathered to talk about the future of Philadelphia's vacant land.

Recognizing that the city's 40,000 vacant parcels present tremendous potential for change and renewal, the Philadelphia-based City Parks Association has brought together key partners—PHS, The Reinvestment Fund, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council—to collaborate on Philadelphia LANDvisions, an international design competition focusing on the city's vacant land.

With extensive experience in community organizing through its Philadelphia Green program, PHS took the lead in the first phase of this project—engaging community members in order to get input from a broad range of Philadelphia residents. The gatherings included innovative techniques such as digital imaging, mapping, and keypad polling, which allowed participants to give and receive immediate feedback. The information from these sessions will be included in materials sent to everyone who enters the competition. (PlaceMatters.com, a community planning and decision-making consulting firm, supported the community visioning sessions.)

The design phase of the competition kicks off in September. All are encouraged to enter, including students, design professionals, community groups, neighborhood residents, and policy makers. (Community-based organizations interested in teaming up with architects to participate in the competition should contact the Community Design Collaborative, *www.cdesignc.org*).

Deenah Loeb, director of the City Parks Association, explains the motivation behind the project: "As the city began demolishing abandoned buildings as part of its Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, we realized that there would be an even greater amount of vacant land left behind, and that what happens with the land will have a tremendous impact on the fabric of the city."

Philadelphia Green director Maitreyi Roy says the time is right for "thinking big." "When we turn vacant lots into 'clean and green' spaces, the potential of this land is revealed. The people in the city need to be part of the dialog about the future of this resource." Indeed, some of the ideas generated envision no less than making Philadelphia a model city for greening and open space.

continued on page 4

Come Celebrate Community Gardens!

(see back page)

Garden Tenders for South Philadelphia

Located at 15th & Morris Streets, DiSilvestro Playground was once a paved open space sorely in need of some "green" care. But at a recent workday, Philadelphia Green staff helped the community, including more than 30 kids, to plant raised beds with perennials and vegetables and to weed and mulch the playground's tree pits.

This project is a result of a special series of Garden Tenders workshops that Philadelphia Green held last winter at Wharton Square in South Philadelphia. (Garden Tenders teaches community groups how-to start, maintain, and sustain their garden projects.) The aim is to provide additional support to committed groups with older community gardens. Staff is either underway or planning to work with the nine groups who completed the training this year.

Keith Green

Philadelphia Green project manager Debbie Hall says the key is to help the groups implement their ideas only after they have demonstrated that they are committed to the upkeep of their projects. "We'll work with each group when they're ready and have figured out a timetable," she notes.

The work is continuing throughout the summer, so be sure to look for updates on the progress of the other Garden Tenders groups in future issues of *Philadelphia Green News*. "We have big plans for them," says project coordinator Keith Green.

In the Spotlight: Andrew Brazington

It's all come full circle for Andrew Brazington. He grew up in West Philadelphia, graduated from Drexel University, and then lived in Texas for nearly 15 years (where he also served in the US Army) before returning to the area in 1997. While working for the School of Hard Knocks, Inc., an intervention/prevention nonprofit organization in North Philadelphia, he first got involved with Philadelphia Green. Andrew helped organize a group of Hard Knocks participants and neighbors to attend the Garden Tenders and Tree Tenders classes. "We were building community involvement," says Andrew, who also has served on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board for the past several years.

These days, Andrew is the environmental corps coordinator for the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center, which offers a variety of education programs for youth of all ages in Southwest Philadelphia, including hands-on restoration and science projects in the Cobbs Creek watershed. For this African-American community, the Center provides much-needed options in the environmental sciences.

Andrew points to his heritage (he is part Native American, with Choctaw and Chickahominy ancestry) as one reason why he's so committed to raising awareness around environmental issues close to home. "The caring and stewardship of the Earth are big issues for the Cobbs Creek watershed," Andrew notes. "It's about information and engaging the community. You need to inform people in order to get them involved in the work."

Somehow, Andrew manages to squeeze in other activities. He has been facilitator with Alternatives to Violence Project, which runs workshops for community- and prison-based groups. And he's helping with an open-space planning process that includes Yeadon, PA (where he now calls home) along with other nearby boroughs just outside the city limits. "There's a limited amount of open space in the area," he says. "We have to protect that."

Andrew has also participated in the Penn State Master Gardener Program and completed the Environmental Leadership Program, a nationwide initiative which trains and supports emerging environmental leaders. "The key," he says, "is to get young people engaged in the issues and challenges of the environment."

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

J. Gannon

◀ FLOWERS FOR CITY HALL

On May 17, 22 kids from The Chester A. Arthur School joined staff from Philadelphia Green and the Fairmount Park Commission for the annual **City Hall in Bloom** *event. Together, this "green team" planted more than 800 white wax begonias and 850 green and white, copper, and dark purple coleus. Check out the new plantings the next time you're walking around the outside of City Hall.*

J. Gannon

THE WONDERS OF LITTLE WONDER ▶

At a ceremony on April 23, landscape tool manufacturer **Little Wonder** *donated eight High Performance Vacs to groups taking part in Philadelphia Green's community-based vacant land maintenance program.*

The event was held at the Philadelphia Housing Authority's Johnson Homes community garden, where the East Park Revitalization Alliance was hosting a workday as part of the 2005 statewide Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. Despite the threat of a rainy day, about 60 volunteers helped out with cleaning and planting the garden.

Bob Grossman

▲ SPRING CLEANING FOR PHILLY PARKS

Thanks to everyone who made this year's 6th annual **Spring into Your Park** *a success! All across the city on May 7, volunteers pitched in at nearly 40 neighborhood parks—cleaning, mulching, painting, planting, pruning, and celebrating. This annual event is the result of a three-way partnership among community park groups, Philadelphia Green, and the Department of Recreation, and it is made possible through the support of the William Penn Foundation and the city's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative. (Pictured above is Bill Trost from Konrad Square—wow, that's a lot of mulch!)*

To find out how to get your park involved in next year's Spring into Your Park, *call 215-988-1611 or e-mail* parks@pennhort.org.

City Gardening Series

Presented by Philadelphia Green, these workshops are free (*except where noted) and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or browse the calendar on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*, for any updates.

Hints for Healthy Houseplants

Monday, July 11, 5 – 6 pm
Graduate Student Center of the University of Pennsylvania
3615 Locust Walk

Horticultural therapist **Mona Gold** offers best practices for growing flowering and foliage houseplants.

**Chanticleer through the Seasons*

Thursday, July 28, 5 – 9 pm

Join us for a summer evening at **Chanticleer**, a 35 acre-garden of ever-changing colors and textures in Wayne, PA. Buses will leave 100 N. 20th Street at 5 pm *sharp*, returning to Philadelphia by 9 pm. Due to limited space, registration and a $5 fee are required. To register, call Marilyn at 215-988-8872 by July 18.

*Triple Oaks Herb Farm in Franklinville, NJ

Wednesday, August 3, 9 am to 4 pm

This trip will include an herb talk and farm tour led by **Lorraine and Joe Kiefer**. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Buses will leave 100 N. 20th Street at 9 am *sharp*, returning to Philadelphia by 4 pm. Due to limited space, registration and a $5 fee are required. To register, please call Marilyn at 215-988-8872 by July 27.

Herbs 101

Wednesday, August 17, 5 – 6 pm
Graduate Student Center of the University of Pennsylvania
3615 Locust Walk

Join us as garden writer and educator **Eva Monheim** discusses what every gardener should know about growing, caring for and using herbs.

The Future of Vacant Land

continued from page 1

The LANDvisions project includes an interactive website where visitors can view results from the community visioning sessions, add their own ideas, submit memories from their neighborhoods, and get information about the competition. There are also online publications, maps, and links. The site can be found at *www.landvisions.org*.

Funding for LANDvisions comes from the Philadelphia Office of Housing and Community Development, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Samuel S. Fels Fund. The Van Alen Institute, a New York-based design competition management organization, will manage the competition.

UPCOMING EVENT: Celebrate Community Gardens

Saturday, July 9, 4 – 7 pm (rain or shine)

On July 9, come **Celebrate Community Gardens** at the Spring Gardens, located at 18th & Wallace Streets in the Fairmount neighborhood. Join gardeners from across the city as we celebrate the city's community gardens. There will be raffles, prizes, and food (roast pig); feel free to bring a covered dish as well.

The Spring Gardens, with its inspiring view of the Philadelphia skyline, is home to a diverse group of gardeners and 180 families tend its plots. This year marks the 10th anniversary of this two-acre garden. The event is hosted by the Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust, PHS, and the Spring Gardeners. Thanks also to our committee of community gardeners who helped plan this event.

Please RSVP by July 1 to Joe Soprani at 215-988-8809 or email *jsoprani@pennhort.org*.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

PHS Participates in White House Conference on Environment

PHS was honored to participate in the **White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation**, which took place August 29, 30, and 31, in St. Louis, Missouri. PHS was one of 30 nonprofit organizations chosen out of a several hundred applications, mostly government agencies, to participate in this prestigious gathering, convened by the White House Council on Environmental Quality. More than 1,200 people attended.

"This was a great opportunity to gain national exposure for PHS and the work of our Philadelphia Green program," says PHS executive vice president Blaine Bonham. PHS's presentation, Philadelphia Vacant Land Management and Reclamation, focused on Philadelphia Green's vacant land management program and its accomplishments over the past decade, working with residents, community organizations, businesses, and government to reclaim abandoned vacant lots. The presentation fit nicely into the theme of the conference—promoting partnerships and "cooperative conservation."

Along with Blaine Bonham, other panel participants included Philadelphia Green senior director Mike Groman; Patricia L. Smith, former director of Neighborhood Transformation for Philadelphia; Howard Neukrug, director, Office of Watersheds at the Philadelphia Water Department; and Susan Wachter, professor of real estate at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, who recently completed a study showing that greening increases property values.

Hanging Baskets for Center City

J. Gannon

As part of its landscape management contract with the Center City District, PHS's Philadelphia Green staff in July supervised the installation of 156 flowering hanging baskets along 'Market East', from City Hall to 6th Street. Since it wasn't feasible to install the project during the busy daytime, the landscape contractor Fine Garden Creations performed all of this work in the middle of the night, under the cover of darkness.

Upcoming Tree Tenders Training

September 14, 21 & 28, 5:45–8:45 pm

Become a Tree Tender! In partnership with Penn State Cooperative Extension, PHS offers nine hours of tree-care training for residents of Philadelphia and the surrounding region. The training will cover tree biology, identification, planting, proper care, and working within your community. The course is free but registration is required (call 215-988-8800 or check out the PHS website).

Over the past 15 years, Southeastern Pennsylvania has lost millions of trees. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has created a public-private partnership, TreeVitalize, to help restore the region's tree cover. You can help by becoming a Tree Tender.

LandVisions Competition Reaches "Phase II"

In the spring, several visioning sessions were held in Philadelphia to re-imagine possibilities for the city's abandoned, vacant land. Now, the design competition phase of *Philadelphia LandVisions* is set to kick off. "Urban Voids: Grounds for Change" will be launched with The Van Alen Institute on September 9, 2005. The competition program will ask teams to find new and innovative uses for Philadelphia's vacant land that reconnect and regenerate the urban fabric.

A prestigious multi-disciplinary jury will select between 3-5 finalists who will receive monetary prizes and proceed into the third phase of this process, where the finalists will develop strategies towards implementing their ideas. A public exhibition of entries will celebrate the proposal submissions.

For more information, and to find out how to enter the competition, please visit: *www.landvisions.org.*

In the Spotlight: Joe Revlock

Philadelphia is filled with residents who have taken an active part in bringing something "green" to their neighborhoods. In Powelton Village, Joe Revlock has always stepped up to the proverbial plate.

Joe has the distinction of having sat at the roundtable of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board *twice*. He was on the first Advisory Board some 25 years ago and serves on its current incarnation. And, if you happened to pass by the Philadelphia Green exhibit at the Flower Show last year, you may have seen Joe manning the exhibit and answering visitors' questions.

Joe's roots in gardening stretch back to his childhood in Spring House, PA, where he was inspired by his mom, a horticulturist and artist. He was introduced to Philadelphia Green in the late 1970s, when he helped establish the Summer-Winter Garden at 33rd and Race Streets. With some start-up funding from Philadelphia Green for tools and fencing, the fledgling group was able to get things growing. And oh, how it's grown. Back then, the gardeners occupied about one-eighth of the one-acre site. Today, the garden inhabits the entire space. The group has also been a long-time participant and oft-time winner in PHS's City Gardens Contest.

In the true spirit of the *community* gardener, Joe is quick to credit others with helping to make the Summer-Winter Garden what it is today. "Ed Hermance really helped to breathe fresh air into the garden," says Joe of his long-time friend, also one of the site's original founders. Moreover, outside help has been key for this garden of 40 plots and about 60 gardeners. "We couldn't do it without the volunteer efforts of the Drexel and Penn student community," he says.

A unique feature of the garden is its public path, which cuts diagonally through the lush open space. "You can feel the temperature drop as you enter the garden," notes Joe. "It really is an oasis." This public access is a welcoming feature for an urban garden—one that is appreciated by the community. "People make it a point to walk through the garden," comments Joe.

When Joe's not in the garden, you'll find him restoring properties in Powelton Village and Center City and performing various landscaping gigs. Before that, he managed construction projects at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

So, what does the future hold? "I'm hoping that the garden will always be here," says Joe, speaking to the importance of historical landmarks. Currently, the Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust works with the neighbors to lease the land from the city for a nominal fee. The ultimate goal is to permanently preserve this garden for generations to come.

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

J. Gannon

◄ GARDENERS CELEBRATE

In July, over 200 gardeners from across the city gathered at The Spring Gardens (18th & Wallace) to celebrate community gardening. The big highlight of the day was the raffle organized by the Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA). Forty-eight items generously donated by Philadelphia businesses were raffled off, raising over $2,400 for NGA's Garden Acquisition Fund.

J. Gannon

▲ KICK-OFF FOR MAYFAIR PARK

Early in the summer, Governor Rendell and other officials gathered with the Mayfair community to dedicate the Mayfair Memorial Park, located at 7218 Frankford Avenue. Philadelphia Green designed this small "pocket park" in partnership with the Mayfair Community Development Corporation. This project was funded by the city's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative.

TOOL TIME ►

Philadelphia Green's City Gardening Series brings a variety of garden-related lectures and workshops to all corners of the city. At the Martin Community Garden (41st and Chester), landscape architect and community gardener Michael LoFurno demonstrated how to use a wide range of gardening tools.

J. Gannon

City Gardening Series

Presented by Philadelphia Green, these workshops are free (*except where noted) and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or browse the calendar on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*, for any updates.

*Chanticleer through the Seasons

Thursday, September 15, 5–9 pm

Join us for a wonderful late summer evening at Chanticleer, a 35-acre garden of ever-changing colors and textures in Wayne, PA. Buses will leave 100 N. 20th Street at 5 pm *sharp*, returning to Philadelphia by 9 pm. Due to limited space, registration and a $5 fee are required. Please bring a light supper; snacks and refreshments will be supplied. Call 215-988-8872 by September 6 to register.

Fall Tree Walk

Monday, September 26, 6–7:30 pm
Fairmount Park Horticulture Center
100 N. Horticulture Drive

Lori Hayes of the Fairmount Park Commission will guide us on a tour of the diversity of trees surrounding the Horticulture Center, including trees planted for the 1876 Centennial Exposition.

Planting a Perennial Garden

Wednesday, September 28, 6–7:30 pm
Tacony Free Library of Philadelphia
6742 Torresdale Avenue

Horticulturist Charlotte Kidd will conduct this hands-on workshop on how to plant a perennial garden. Dress for work and bring gardening gloves.

Fabulous Fall Containers

Monday, October 3, 6–7 pm
Walnut West Free Library of Philadelphia
201 S. 40th Street

At this workshop, Eva Monheim will show how to create an attractive late season container garden using a variety of textures, colors and forms.

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Save the Date: Fall for Your Park

Saturday, October 29

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, October 29 for the 7th annual *Fall for your Park*, to be held this year at Papa Playground and Morris Park in Overbrook. Neighborhood residents will transform this park for all to enjoy. A variety of projects will take place including painting, plantings, trail work, and more. Enjoy food, fun, free t-shirts, and Halloween surprises. Come on out and pitch in! Call 215-988-1611 or e-mail *parks@pennhort.org* for more information.

Fall for your Park is a collaborative event sponsored by Philadelphia Green, the Department of Recreation, and the Fairmount Park Commission. It is made possible by a grant from the William Penn Foundation.

City Gardening Series

continued from page 3

How to Plant Spring Bulbs

Wednesday, October 5, 6–7:30 pm
Donatucci Free Library of Philadelphia
1935 Shunk Street
Horticultural educator Liz Dailey will share a number of bulb planting techniques and design ideas. Please bring gloves and dress to work.

Flowering Houseplants

Monday, October 24, 6:30–7:30 pm
Logan Free Library of Philadelphia
1333 Wagner Avenue
Horticultural therapist Mona Gold gives advice on flowering houseplants.

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Meadowbrook Farm Open House

Saturday, October 22, 2005, 10 am to 5 pm

At Meadowbrook Farm's annual open house, enjoy self-guided tours of the estate and private gardens, fall-themed plantings, and decorations. Kids, come in your scariest (or cutest) costume and participate in kid-friendly activities. Meadowbook Farm is also a nursery and affiliate of PHS, located at 1633 Washington Lane in Abington Township. For more info, call 215-887-5900 or visit: *www.gotomeadowbrook.com*

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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A New Crown of Empress Trees for Logan Square

By John Gannon and Nancy O'Donnell

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, through its Philadelphia Green program, is embarking on a new project to rehabilitate the landscape at Logan Square in Philadelphia. The project is funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Fairmount Park Commission.

As you journey from City Hall to the Art Museum on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, you pass the dramatic Swann Memorial Fountain that sits on Logan Square. Over the years, however, its surrounding landscape has fallen into disrepair, with uneven paths, barren planting beds, and benches that are in poor condition or missing altogether. In addition, a recent evaluation of the historic "empress trees" that surround the fountain revealed that most of the 12 trees are in poor condition and need to be replaced.

The Landscape Plan

The new design for Logan Square, by Olin Partnership, retains the essential elements of the current design: the sight lines along the main axis, the replacement empress trees, and the seasonal floral display of the perimeter planting beds.

The shape of the revised planting beds is inspired by the design of the Swann Fountain. Arcs of flowers, shrubs, and groundcover will surround the lawn panels, emphasized by lines of low hedges. To preserve views into and out of the space, none of the new plantings will exceed three feet in height. The design also calls for "hardscape" improvements—reinforced gravel paths, new benches facing the fountain, and a slightly narrower perimeter sidewalk—that will enhance the setting for the plantings. The work is scheduled for completion this fall.

PHS and Fairmount Park have developed a landscape management plan that will provide ongoing care for the new landscape and have committed staff and money for the landscape's upkeep. Fairmount Park will continue to provide basic landscape services such as mowing, litter pickup, and maintenance of the irrigation system.

Why are the Paulownias being removed?

Along with the beloved Swann Memorial Fountain, created by Alexander Stirling Calder, the 12 empress trees (*Paulownia tomentosa*) are one of the most distinctive aspects of the current Logan Square

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Logan Square

continued from page 1

landscape. Because these trees are a signature element of this landscape and of the entire Benjamin Franklin Parkway, PHS made a special effort to evaluate their health and safety, bringing in Morris Arboretum's Arboricultural & Natural Resource consultants to perform this task.

The investigation found that three of the aging trees are in serious decline and should be removed immediately. Five more trees suffer maladies like cavities, cracks, fungus, and other structural problems. Two of the remaining four need drastic pruning, which would likely result in an unattractive form and would require yearly pruning to keep them stable. Only two of 12 trees are in good condition, and if they were to remain, they would be threatened by construction activities. For these reasons, PHS and the Fairmount Park Commission decided to remove all of the trees and plant new paulownias.

Extensive horticultural expertise is being employed in the propagation of these new trees. Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA, is growing the 12 replacements, which are offspring from trees in its collection. The young trees were grown from cuttings of the original trees that stood along Longwood's famous paulownia allée. As a result of this high-quality parentage, the young trees destined for Logan Square are sure to have a desirable bloom time and color.

Currently, the trees are undergoing a process of cutting back and root pruning in preparation for their move to Logan Square in 2006. Since this species is particularly fast growing, the replacements will be of significant size within a few years after planting. At present, the young empress trees are growing an impressive nine inches per week.

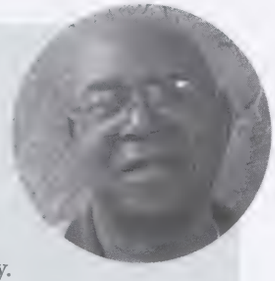
For more information about the Logan Square landscape rehabilitation project, contact Lisa Stephano, PHS Director of PR & Marketing, 215-988-8840 or lstephano@pennhort.org.

PG to Participate in Penn Exhibit

Philadelphia Green's vacant land management work will be featured as a part of *Vacant Property Redefined*, a five-part exhibit organized by the University of Pennsylvania, examining innovative strategies for reclamation and development. Philadelphia Green presents "Redefining the Vacant Lot: Open Space Innovation," which runs **November 30 – December 16.** The Opening Reception is on Wednesday, November 30 at 5 pm.

Vacant Property Redefined
at The Left Bank, 3101 Walnut Street, Lower Level
9 am to 5 pm, weekdays
For more information, go to:
www.upenn.edu/penniur

In the Spotlight: Fred Lewis



Fred Lewis may be "retired," but he's not exactly taking it easy. After leaving his profession as a laundry management consultant, he became actively involved in many different community endeavors.

As a resident of the city's Germantown neighborhood for over 50 years, Fred has been actively involved in both Clivden and Vernon Parks. He serves on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, as well as the Parks Revitalization Project's Steering Committee.

Fred believes that the work to improve the city's parks in recent years has resulted in a range of benefits. "It has brought people's attention back to the parks," he says. "And more people from the neighborhood come out to participate in park events and activities."

He has also been an ardent supporter of the advocacy-oriented Philadelphia Parks Alliance, but his work with parks and Philadelphia Green is merely the tip of the iceberg. These days, you'll also find Fred working at the Center in the Park, a community center for older adults in the city's historic Germantown section. As Senior Environment Corps Volunteer Coordinator, he leads groups in projects that monitor the area's stream water quality. His environmental commitment also extends elsewhere, as he serves on the boards of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership.

In other community work, Fred participated on a committee that helped bring 90 mentors and tutors to the newly converted Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice, whose mission is to educate students on peaceful ways to resolve local and global conflicts.

What's next for Fred Lewis? It is sure to include his tireless efforts to improve the quality of life in Germantown and the city as a whole. Parks are a big piece of the puzzle. "Clean parks represent a safe place for kids and a place of pride for the neighborhood," says Fred.

2005 PHS City Gardens Contest

Launched in 1975, The PHS City Gardens Contest is a friendly competition that celebrates the efforts of Philadelphia residents. Gardeners compete for prizes in a variety of categories, from small, rooftop gardens to large community gardens that span whole city blocks. Teams of volunteer judges visit each contestant during July and August. Following are the winners of the 2005 Contest. Congratulations to all who entered!

From **January 9 through 13,** you can view photographs of the winning gardens in the main lobby of the **Shops at Liberty Place, 16th and Chestnut Streets in Center City Philadelphia.** The exhibit will be shown in the main rotunda. Don't miss it!

Individual Categories

Container Gardens

Includes balconies & decks, entryways, patios, and roof decks

First Place
- Hester R. Beckman
- Earl Eberwein
- Kathleen Factor
- Zelma Gorham
- Lynne Luttrell

Second Place
- Jacqueline M. Alston
- Mark & Anine Burlingame
- Meg Etherington
- Julie Hirsch-Waxman
- Constance Kirker
- Peter Miraglia
- Alfred Rizzio

Third Place
- Conrad Booker & Adam Kantorski
- Jeanne Goldberg
- Renaldo James
- Amy L. Kitzen
- Mark Nolte
- Jane W. Swartz

Honorable Mention
- Gina Caruso
- Barbara Epstein
- Sylvia Hicks
- Ralph Satterthwaite
- Les Sharpless
- Shirley Solomon

Flower Gardens

First Place
- Iris Brown
- Gail Chapman
- Barbara Elliott
- Charlie Heiser
- Kimberly Lock
- Edward Ruback
- Nelson Shores
- Rosemary Tilli
- Terry J. Versailles & Richard Funk

Second Place
- Rhonda J. Brown
- Ann Cohen
- Ivey Galitan
- Josie Goodman
- Jack Kenner
- Jean Miller & Craig Heim
- Rita C. Naremore
- George E. Price
- Bernice and Jeanne Rothwarf
- Rita Smith
- Carol Smythe

Third Place
- Alfred & Debbie Bilstein
- Debbie Daniels
- Maria Delgado
- Lois DiDomenico
- Howard & Fred Edelstein
- Jim Hart
- Melour E. Henderson
- Margaret & Sidney Kanefsky
- Donald & Katharine Kriebel
- Barbara McCabe & Ken Fulmer
- Samuel & Lucille McGee
- Marianne Miller
- Charles & Christine Schwarz
- Donald Tester

Honorable Mention
- Jeanette Brittingham
- Sandra & Isiah Gilliam
- William E. Heil
- William Hughes
- Mildred Lizenbaum
- Caroline Meline
- Ada A. Purrington
- Jean Robinson
- Diane Scutti
- Joan Smalarz
- Margaret Stineman
- K. B. Tan

Vegetable Gardens

First Place
- John Caniz
- Lawrence King
- Domenico Scicchitano
- Michael Pavuk

Second Place
- Karl Dollmann & Karl Dollmann, Jr.
- Ernest Meyer
- Alan McHale
- Bill Mooney
- Reuben Wade & Janice Smith

Third Place
- Nicola D'Alessio
- Michael Borsello

- McKinley Ford
- James C. Garvey
- Fred Indictor
- Kelly Kunik & Abad Rosa
- John Milko

Honorable Mention
- Edward J. Krimmel
- Eva Sanders

Combination Flower and Vegetable Gardens

First Place
- Adrian Carr & Leopold Reid
- Joan Haley
- Toney Lucas

Second Place
- Deborah Brooks
- Diane Kunze & John Neugebauer

Photos by Suzanne Wheeling

Roger Wing, Cohocksink Garden

2005 PHS City Gardens Contest

Rose Lacend
Edward & Mable Parker
Noemi Rodriguez

Third Place
Elvira Gibson
Lillie Gorham
Anne Howlett
John Lindsay
Candice Price

Honorable Mention
Clyde E. Jacobs
Debbie Rhoe

Children's Gardens

First Place
Carina & Aimon Flaherty

Honorable Mention
Laurie Pelczar

Community Garden Categories

Community Children's Gardens

First Place
5537 Baltimore Avenue

Second Place
Blaine School, Strawberry Mansion Environmental Learning Center

Third Place
Grow in Peace Garden at Aspen Farms

Honorable Mention
The Parent Infant Center
712 N. 48th Street

School Gardens

First Place
Urban Nutrition Initiative, University City High School, Drew Garden

Second Place
Longstreth School

Third Place
Pollock E. S.

Honorable Mention
Bonnie G. Levine Teaching Garden, Vare Middle School

Combination Vegetable/ Flower Gardens

First Place
55th & Baltimore
Bel Arbor Community Garden
Fitzwater 2000 Community Garden
Las Parcelas
Pemberton Garden
The Spring Gardens
1033-37 South 6th Street

Second Place
Cohocksink Garden
Ella Francis Garden
"Roots" Garden
Schuylkill River Park Community Garden
Sloan Street Community Garden
Southwark Queen Village

Third Place
Aspen Farms
Brewerytown Garden
Garden R.U.N.
Kings Court English House Garden Club
New Jerusalem Now
Pulaski-Zevalda Community Garden

Honorable Mention
5342 W. Berks Street
Broad & South Street Community Arts Garden
839 South Street
Stiles Street Block Associates

Vegetable Gardens

First Place
Glenwood Green Acres
The Southerners

Second Place
Warrington Community Garden
1933-1945 N. 31st Street

Schuylkill River Park Community Garden

Flower Gardens

First Place
Hands-On Garden of Associated Services for the Blind
Society Hill Towers Gardens
Stillman Street Garden

Second Place
Thompson Street Senior Peace Garden
1150 S. 13th Street

Third Place
The Gas Station Garden

Honorable Mention
St. Matthew AME Church

First-Year Community Gardens

First Place
USP Lower Mill Creek Garden

Second Place
Unitarian Universalist House

Third Place
New Jerusalem Now

Honorable Mention
Villa Africana Colobo

Philadelphia Green Garden Blocks

Window boxes and sidewalk planters

First Place
1500 Block E. Berks Street
2400 Block Olive Street

The Greenest Block in Town

Street trees and front yards

First Place
6200 block Ellsworth Street

Second Place
2100 block Saint James Place

Third Place
5800 block Montrose Street

Honorable Mention
3200 block W. Montgomery Avenue

Philadelphia Green Parks Program

Gardens within parks

First Place
Friends of Campbell Square Park
Friends of Konrad Square
Friends of Mario Lanza Park

Second Place
Friends of Bardascino Park
Friends of Wissinoming Park

Third Place
Friends of Powers Park

Honorable Mention
Friends of Cianfrani Park

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

LOGAN SQUARE ► GROUNDBREAKING

On September 15, the Swann Fountain was ceremoniously turned off as leaders from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Fairmount Park Commission, and The Pew Charitable Trusts celebrated the landscape renovations beginning this fall on Logan Square. This effort is funded through a $750,000 grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts and $400,000 from the City of Philadelphia/Fairmount Park Commission.

Margaret Funderberg

RIDGE ON THE RISE ▼

In late September, about 100 people attended a dedication ceremony for the "Ridge on the Rise" mosaic wall and landscape at Ridge Avenue and Jefferson Street. Project partners include Philadelphia Green, the Village of Arts and Humanities, Project Home, and the Ridge Avenue Business Association. The morning's planting and cleanup involved volunteers from Temple University and from the Gaudenzia House, a substance-abuse treatment center. A neighbor across the street, the Travelers Motorcycle Club, helped with the mosaic wall and has agreed to water the new plantings.

J. Gannon

◄ CITIZENS AT SAUNDERS PARK

Employees from Citizens Bank were on hand to help out West Philadelphia's Saunders Park, mulching the park's trees and adding new plantings. This workday was a part of Citizens Bank's multi-year $250,000 commitment to provide resources for greening projects in targeted communities of the city's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative.

Mike Rayfield

City Gardening Series

These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*, or browse the calendar on the PHS website.

Designing with Cut Flowers

Monday, November 7, 3:15 – 4:15 pm
Graduate Student Center of the University of Pennsylvania
3615 Locust Walk

Eva Monheim demonstrates how cut flowers can add charm and elegance to almost any room.

Caring for Houseplants

Wednesday, November 9, 4 – 5:00 pm
Nicetown Branch, Free Library
3720 N. Broad Street

Horticulturist Janet Carter will give basics tips on plant selection, watering, and fertilizing.

Holiday Plants

Wednesday, November 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Overbrook Park Branch, Free Library
7422 Haverford Avenue

Janet Carter demonstrates how to enhance your holiday celebrations using flowering and foliage plants.

Houseplants—Your Indoor Garden

Monday, November 14, 4:30 – 5:30 pm
McPherson Branch, Free Library
601 E. Indiana Avenue

Lori Hayes gives advice on flowering and foliage houseplants and how to keep them healthy through the winter.

Rejuvenating Your Landscape

Wednesday, November 16, 7 – 8 pm
Lovett Memorial Branch, Free Library
6945 Germantown Avenue

Garden designer Toni Ann Flanigan will look at ways to analyze, evaluate, and redesign your home landscape.

TreeVitalize Tree Planting Days

TreeVitalize, a public-private partnership initiated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, aims to plant 20,000 trees in southeastern Pennsylvania. PHS is a leading partner in this effort to restore our region's tree cover (the percentage of land shaded by trees).

At the following events, each community organization will be planting 50 trees. Please come out, see how it's done, and lend a hand!

Saturday, November 5, 9 am – 1 pm

Tree planting with the Passyunk Civic Association. For more information, contact Geoff D'Masi at 215-467-1761.

Saturday, November 12, 9 am – 1 pm

Tree planting with the East Kensington Neighbors. Contact Marlene Buck at 215-427-0350.

Saturday, November 19, 9 am – 1 pm

The Fairmount Tree Tenders will be planting 50 street trees. Contact Barbara Epstein at 215-765-3092.

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A Floral Force of Nature

Looking Ahead to the 2006 Philadelphia Flower Show

Mother Nature herself will drop by Center City this March when the 2006 Philadelphia Flower Show opens at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Titled **Enchanted Spring...A Tribute to Mother Nature**, this year's Show will take visitors from the fantastical to the practical and inspire even the most hesitant gardeners to take up a trowel and start planting.

Philadelphia Green exhibit from 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show

The centerpiece of this year's Show is surely *Natura*, a 27-foot-tall plant sculpture depicting Mother Nature in all her glory. The internationally renowned design group, Life3, will create large flower arrangements within the exhibit, using every color of the rainbow. Encircling the stately sculpture will be "Mother Nature's Garden," including artistic tributes to the elements of nature: fire, water, and wind.

"No question, Natura is going to the most elaborate display the Show has ever mounted," says Sam Lemheney, the Flower Show's design director. "The Flower Show is all about creating things that people have never seen before, and that's what we were going for here in a big way." That's no exaggeration: upon completion *Natura* will be the largest plant sculpture in the world.

Another highlight of the Show is the glorious and fragrant *Floratopia Tree*, which will teem with flowers, birds, and butterflies. This exhibit, located at the Show's entrance, boasts vivid colors and exotic species that will undoubtedly provide a welcome contrast to the cold and gray March weather.

Visitors will also enjoy acres of great gardens, inspirational landscapes, and fabulous floral arrangements. Amid all the hubbub will be design workshops, informative lectures, and live cooking presentations with local celebrity chefs.

For those who enjoy shopping, the Show's Marketplace features more than 140 retailers from both the U.S. and abroad. The merchandise, including flowers, supplies, crafts, and even furniture, are sure to satisfy the needs of any green thumb.

Show proceeds, including tickets and sponsorship contributions, support the work of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, particularly its Philadelphia Green program. Visitors can see the exciting accomplishments of Philadelphia Green by stopping by the exhibit located in the center of the Show. The multimedia exhibit will showcase all of Philadelphia Green's most recent projects.

"We want everyone who attends the Show to know they are supporting Philadelphia Green just by attending," says Flossie Narducci, education services manager at PHS. "The exhibit is really a big 'thank you' to them."

Philadelphia Flower Show
March 5–12, 2006

Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA

www.theflowershow.com

General Admission:
Adults: $26 on Opening Sunday (March 5), $24 on weekends and $22 weekdays.
Children aged 2 to 12: $12 (good any day)
Advance tickets: $20
Group tickets (20 or more people): $19.50

For more information, please visit *www.theflowershow.com* or call 215-988-8899 (recorded information).

Avoid the crowds! The best viewing times are from 3 pm until closing.

PHS's New "Green City Youth" Program

PHS is proud to introduce its latest educational initiative, an innovative, two-year program called Green City Youth. Funded by the National Recreation Foundation, the project allies teachers, students, and community stewards to promote horticulture as a way to improve neighborhoods. The carefully planned service-learning curriculum encourages students to find their own voices as they conceive, develop, and implement greening projects throughout the school year.

"Rather then telling the kids what to do, we allow them to choose their own projects," says Larry Stier, project manager. "This creates a sense of ownership and a desire to invest in community greening."

Presently 150 students representing five Philadelphia schools are taking part in Green City Youth. The five participating schools are Bache-Martin Elementary School, Hunter School, Sulzberger Middle School, Penn Alexander School, and the Kensington Culinary Academy. To ensure the success of this project, PHS has targeted schools in neighborhoods where community stewards are already actively involved in local green spaces. By partnering students with these community heroes, Green City Youth teaches the importance of greening in a real-life, meaningful way, while addressing curricular concerns.

continued on back cover

Larry Stier

Students from the Kensington Culinary Academy examine plants growing on a vacant lot.

In the Spotlight: Amanda Benner

Philadelphia Green is constantly exploring new ways of getting people to invest in their communities, but few have shown the dedication and determination of Amanda Benner.

Amanda's mission to make the city beautiful began more than a decade ago with her first class of Tree Tenders training. "I look at that as a defining moment for me because it really got me involved in the community," she recalls. "I found out that I really love working with people and trees."

As part of the Spruce Hill Tree Tenders team, Amanda worked tirelessly to bring new life to her neighborhood. This was no easy feat; the project involved breaking and removing concrete slabs, cleaning debris, and digging tree pits. Fortunately, the hard work brought a tremendous payoff, and the group was acknowledged by the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council's America the Beautiful initiative and received the Scotts Company's Community Beautification Gardener of the Year Award in 2004.

This accomplishment only strengthened Amanda's resolve, and two years ago, she became executive director of UC Green, an enterprise supported by the University of Pennsylvania. Benner envisioned UC Green as a network of volunteers and greening enthusiasts who participate in environmental projects throughout West Philadelphia. By partnering with several local organizations, she is able to provide her volunteers with all the resources they require.

"We aim to aid people on a local level by providing support and pointing them in the right direction," she says. "Whenever we see people mobilized and ready to work, we don't hesitate to step up and pitch in."

Amanda's fervor must be contagious, because she currently wields a rolodex of roughly 600 volunteers. Her hardy helpers represent the city's incredible diversity, from long-time residents to college students. "When everyone works together, it creates a momentum that hasn't been tapped in years. People see one block revitalized and then the people on the next block want it too," she says.

Proud of her PHS roots, Amanda hopes to continue the partnership between Philadelphia Green and UC Green for years to come. "In some ways, I look at UC Green as a training ground for Tree Tenders," she says. "Together we can continue to broaden the base of tree lovers and greening enthusiasts in West Philly and encourage more appreciation and stewardship of trees and public spaces."

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

Larry Stier

Margaret Funderberg

▼ AZALEA GARDEN "SWEET 16" EVENT

The Azalea Garden celebrated its 16th anniversary in style on October 15 with a gala event recognizing the tireless dedication of its volunteers. PHS President Jane Pepper and Victoria Steiger, RLA, designer of the Azalea Garden, commended volunteers on a job well done and admired the continuing beauty of this city treasure. Pictured here are some of the remarkable volunteers, including some who have been with the garden from the beginning.

Marilyn Romenesko

FALL FOR YOUR PARK ▲

On October 29, more than 350 people from across the city volunteered at Morris Park and Papa Playground in Overbrook to plant a variety of trees and flowering native plants. The busy volunteers also found time to paint the Recreation Center, spruce up the park, and restore a woodland trail. Here, Amanda León of PHS and Mark Mendenhall of Barkan Park aid a group of Girl Scouts in planting a London plane tree on 68th Street.

Margaret Funderberg

◄ FALL FOR YOUR PARK

City Councilman Michael Nutter was one of several prominent figures at this year's Fall For Your Park. Nutter, whose district includes the most parks and recreation centers in the city, spoke of his commitment to the green spaces within his jurisdiction. Also pictured are Joan Reilly of Philadelphia Green; Tom and Dan Gasiewski of the Morris Park Restoration Association; Huntley Hardison of the Overbrook Farms Club; Barbara McCabe and Tom Fox of the Department of Recreation; and Mark Focht, executive director of Fairmount Park.

City Gardening Series

These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*, or browse the calendar on the PHS website.

Growing Houseplants under Lights

Monday, January 9, 6:30–7:30 pm
Independence Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia
18 S. 7th Street

Join us as horticultural educator **Bernie Wiener** demonstrates how growing plants under lights can be easy and rewarding if you follow a few basic guidelines.

Planning the Spring Garden

Monday, January 23, 6–7 pm
Walnut West Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia
201 S. 40th Street

Garden designer **Toni Ann Flanigan** will show how to analyze, evaluate, and design the spring garden in a slide show presentation.

Creating a Terrarium

Wednesday, January 25, 6–7 pm
McKinley School, 2101 W. Orkney Street

At this hands-on workshop, horticultural educator **Eva Monheim** will show how creating a terrarium is a practical and fun way to have a miniature landscape inside your home. Due to limited space, **registration is required**.

Garden Tenders Basic Training

Five Wednesdays, beginning January 11
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor Auditorium

Philadelphia Green's Garden Tenders is a training course for community groups and nonprofit organizations that are interested in starting community gardens on vacant lots, in parks, or around schools and churches. Registration for the Garden Tenders training course is limited to Philadelphia residents.

For more information and an application, contact Dawn Waters at 215-988-8845 or *dwaters@pennhort.org*.

New Video Highlights Philadelphia Green

Thousands of people and hundreds of organizations have partnered with PHS's nationally acclaimed Philadelphia Green program to create vibrant green spaces, gateways, parks, and gardens throughout the city. **Live, Grow, Thrive in a Green Philadelphia** is a new video that tells the story of Philadelphia Green and highlights the physical, social, environmental, and economic impact of the program.

We invite you to visit the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*, where you can download this inspiring, nine-minute video. (Click on "Download Philadelphia Green Video.") A CD-ROM version is also available for free by calling Daniel Moise at 215-988-8871.

Green City Youth

continued from page 2

One such hero is Marlene Buck of the New Kensington Community Development Corporation. Buck is working with youngsters from the Kensington Culinary Academy, a subsidiary of Kensington High School. "I'd like to teach [the students] all that the trees offer," she says. "They must recognize that the Earth is ours to care for. After all, they are the stewards of tomorrow."

The program offers a variety of engaging and educational activities that get the students out of the classroom and into the world. Ritz Camera provides each student with a disposable camera for a scavenger hunt for green spaces. A class trip to the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge in Tinicum educates students about Philadelphia's native species and gives them a glimpse of what the local landscape looked like centuries ago. In the spring, each student will plant a bare-root tree seedling, courtesy of the National Arbor Day Foundation. PHS provides educator training, direct student instruction, and horticultural supplies.

For more information about Green City Youth, contact Patricia Schrieber, Community Education Manager, 215-988-8841 or pschrieber@pennhort.org.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

A Must-See TV Event!

Philly Green to be featured in Major Television Documentary on PBS

Roll out the red carpet and warm up the spotlight, because the premiere of *Edens Lost & and Found* is fast approaching. The Philadelphia portion of this four-hour documentary, featuring four American cities and their respective greening projects, will make its **PBS debut on May 25**.

John Gannon

Philadelphia gets ready for its close-up

Edens Lost and Found is an uplifting look at Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, and Los Angeles, each of which is using greening and environmental innovation as a means toward urban rebirth. It reveals how professionals, government, and ordinary citizens can come together to create a better way of life for all. The brainchild of Academy Award-winning filmmakers Harry Wiland and Dale Bell, the series is sure to inform, inspire, and engage.

PHS played a sizable role in making the documentary's Philadelphia segment a reality. By raising funds, arranging logistics, and having a broad network of contacts, friends, and partners in Philadelphia, the PHS staff was an integral part of the filming process.

"It was fascinating to see what it takes to make a movie. It requires resourcefulness and incredible attention to detail," says Joan Reilly, director of Philadelphia Green.

Of course PHS wasn't solely behind the scenes—the decades-long efforts of PHS's Philadelphia Green program is one of the film's highlights. The documentary also showcases other endeavors that have put the city on the path to sustainability. The development of charter schools, new housing opportunities, and the work of the Mural Arts Program all relay just how innovative the city has become.

"Our role in the film relates to stewardship of the environment. Greening is an important step toward revitalizing a city that must be lifted up and recognized," Joan says. "I hope the film will make people want to work and live in Philadelphia, as well as visit its tremendous points of interest."

Tying this all together is the film's host, actor David Morse, who lives in Philadelphia. Morse has been featured in dozens of films including *The Green Mile*, *Dreamer*, and the upcoming *16 Blocks*. "It is really exciting to have a man of his talent and integrity be a part of this project," Joan says.

The first two segments of *Edens Lost and Found* will feature Chicago (May 18) and Philadelphia (May 25). The other two parts, showcasing Los Angeles and Seattle, will air in the fall.

"I'm very excited that PHS had a significant role in getting this film made," enthuses J. Blaine Bonham Jr., executive vice president of PHS. "I also think it's terrific that the work of PHS will garner national exposure, allowing the entire country to see what we're all about."

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Tree Tenders Continuing Education: Bare-Root Trees

Wednesday, March 1, 6:30-8 pm
PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor Council Room

Learn the advantages of planting bare-root trees and how to care for them.

Garden Tenders Third Thursday Workshop: Planning for Spring Planting

Thursday, March 16, 6:30-8 pm
PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, 5th Floor

Make a plan to have the most beautiful and productive garden.

Saunders Park Shapes Up!

The small park behind Penn Presbyterian Medical Center was always a great asset to the community, so one year ago some ambitious organizations resolved to make it even better. Now, after a considerable amount of effort and energy, this spring will be a little sunnier for residents of Saunders Park

The restoration began with a partnership that brought several organizations—Philadelphia Green, the University of Pennsylvania Health System, the People's Emergency Center CDC, Saunders Park Neighbors, and UC Green—to the table to imagine new ways to transform the park into something spectacular. "Our partners were really willing to invest in the neighborhood and make the park a launching point for the community," reflects Paul Bonfanti, parks project manager for Philadelphia Green.

The generous funders, Bank of America and the William Penn Foundation, helped equip the park with some much-needed items. Café-style seating, a garden area, and even handy "doggie stations" enhance the beauty of the park. "We also installed a large planting urn to recreate what the park

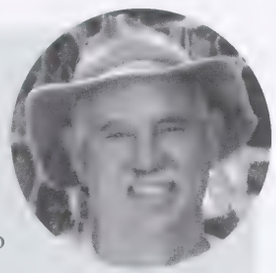
continued on back cover

Jim Roese

Pictured left to right: Harry Hill (PHS); Dan Fitzpatrick (Bank of America); Congressman Chaka Fattah; Jean Mitchell (Saunders Park Neighborhood Association); Dr. Ana McKee (Penn Presbyterian Medical Center).

Michael Rayfield

In the Spotlight: Chuck Lafferty



The kindergartners at Longstreth Elementary School may need help tying their shoes or crossing the street, but get them into a garden and watch them go! That's because their teacher, Chuck Lafferty, understands the importance of environmental education.

"I think it's really important for students to develop respect for nature," Chuck says, "especially when they're from an urban area."

So in 1998, Chuck began a community garden on the corner of 57th Street & Beaumont Avenue with Longstreth resident Marie Womack. When Chuck integrated gardening projects into the curriculum, it was an instant hit with his students. "Besides the obvious tie to science, the garden also proved to be a great place to read books, practice math, and develop other skills," he says.

Since then the school has undergone remarkable changes. There is an all-organic vegetable and flower garden, 40 new trees, and a water garden. Chuck even transformed a vacant lot into a school wildlife habitat. With its abundance of green spaces, Longstreth is the first elementary school in Philadelphia to be certified by the National Wildlife Federation.

In addition to their gardening lessons, Chuck's students also learn a great deal about community involvement. "We want the students to see themselves as stewards of their neighborhood," he says. "They need to take pride in their home."

The notion of greening and giving back to Longstreth resulted in the Kinder-Garden Seed Company, an activity that has the students sort, count, and bag seeds from their garden. The seeds are then distributed to community residents. Not only that, the kindergarten class also donates 200 to 300 native plants to residents every year.

"The different projects at the school have led to a definite, noticeable greening of the neighborhood. Gardens have sprung up on vacant land all over Longstreth," Chuck boasts. "I look at the original garden at 57th & Beaumont as almost a magical piece of dirt. The project started out so small and has grown so much, like it has a life of its own."

Still, Chuck isn't through just yet. Having attended Tree Tenders, Garden Tenders, and a host of other PHS training programs, he currently serves on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and helps plan the annual PHS Kids Grow Expo.

Chuck's next mission is to help all Philadelphia schools build a garden and make it part of the curriculum. "In other schools, students might grow a potted plant on a windowsill," he says. "Here, we allow them to plant it in the garden, see how it grows, and watch it change with the seasons." Now that's an education.

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

Michael Rayfield

▼ PG SKILLS CONFERENCE

Philadelphia Green held its annual Skills Conference on January 28 at the Moore College of Art and Design and attracted a record crowd of 211 attendees. The one-day conference is designed for volunteers who are engaged in neighborhood greening projects that strengthen their communities. Visitors participated in a series of lectures (far left) and perused information booths (left) regarding this year's theme, community stewardship. Thanks to the Environmental Leadership Program, the William Penn Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's TreeVitalize Project for their support.

City Gardening Series

Generously Supported Through a Collaborative Partnership with the Chanticleer Foundation

These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*, or browse the calendar on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*.

Gardening with Kids

Wednesday, March 22, 6:30–7:30 pm
Holmesburg Free Library of Philadelphia
7810 Frankford Avenue

Horticultural educator Liz Dailey shares tips and techniques for creating and maintaining successful gardens for kids.

Pruning Shrubs and Trees

Saturday, March 25, 10–11 am
Awbury Arboretum,
One Awbury Road (on Chew Avenue betw. Washington Lane and Haines Street)

Landscape architect and community gardener Michael LoFurno demonstrates how to prune trees, shrubs and hedges.

Growing Vegetables in Containers

Saturday, April 1, 10–11 am
Lucien E. Blackwell Free Library of Phila.
125 S. 52nd Street

Horticultural educator Janet Carter covers tips on plant selection, design, watering and fertilizing the vegetable garden.

Tips and Tricks of Flower Arranging

Tuesday, April 4, 3–4 pm
Walnut West Free Library of Philadelphia
201 S. 40th Street

Horticultural therapist Beverly Agard provides information on making and maintaining floral arrangements, floral care, and ideas for adding charm and elegance to any room using flowers.

Gardening with Kids

Wednesday, April 5, 4–5 pm
Wyoming Free Library of Philadelphia
231 E. Wyoming Avenue

Horticultural educator Liz Dailey shares tips and techniques for creating and maintaining successful gardens for kids.

Caring for Houseplants

Monday, April 10, 3:30–4:30 pm
Graduate Student Center
University of Pennsylvania
3615 Locust Walk

Educator Eva Monheim gives houseplant tips including plant selection, design, watering and fertilizing, and bringing them out into the garden.

Kitchen Garden in a Pot

Wednesday, April 12, 6:30–7:30 pm
Greater Olney Free Library of Philadelphia
5501 N. 5th Street

Garden writer and educator Charlotte Kidd shares ideas on growing a variety of vegetables, fruits, and herbs in containers.

Water Gardens in Small Spaces

Wednesday, April 19, 6:30–7:30 pm
Holmesburg Free Library of Philadelphia
7810 Frankford Avenue

Landscape designer Toni Ann Flanigan will show how water features are enchanting additions to any size garden.

How to Care for and Maintain Your Lawn

Saturday, April 22, 10–11 am
Awbury Arboretum, Cope House
One Awbury Road (on Chew Avenue betw. Washington Lane and Haines Street)

Environmental educator Lori Hayes discusses how to establish a lawn and maintain it through fertilizing, watering, mowing, and weed control.

Designing a Container Garden

Monday, April 24, 3:30–4:30 pm
Graduate Student Center
University of Pennsylvania
3615 Locust Walk

Eva Monheim will show how to design and keep your container garden looking beautiful all season long.

Color in the Garden

Wednesday, April 26, 7-8 pm
Katherine Drexel Free Library of Phila.
11099 Knights Road

Charlotte Kidd will show how to create visually pleasing color combinations in the garden.

Creating Window Boxes

Saturday, April 29, 10–11 am
Lucien E. Blackwell Free Library of Phila.
125 S. 52nd Street

Using a variety of materials, Janet Carter will share inventive ideas, advice, and hints for gardening in window boxes.

Saunders Park

continued from page 2

looked like years ago," says John Ungar of the People's Emergency Center CDC.

The Saunders Park residents were elated by the improvements, as were the folks at Penn Presbyterian. "We hope our employees, patients, and visitors will see the park as a haven where they can sit and relax during what may be a very difficult time," says Gary Ginsberg, assistant executive director of hospital facilities. "In addition, we saw this as an opportunity to embrace our community and help stabilize the neighborhood. Everyone benefits."

All this hard work culminated in a tree lighting and ribbon cutting ceremony on December 21. The Commandos Drum Corps added spirited music to the occasion. Elected officials, hospital staff, funders, and the press gathered with residents to celebrate the milestone. "You could see how happy the community members were just by looking at their faces," says Takkeem Morgan, PHS parks project coordinator. "The whole evening was a testament to hard work and the value of partnerships."

Green City Youth Update

The January/February issue of *PG News* described a project called Green City Youth, which encourages Philadelphia public school students to work with community stewards on greening projects.

Funded by the National Recreation Foundation, Green City Youth is a partnership between PHS and **Delaware Valley Earth Force**, which, since 1994, has engaged youths as active citizens to improve the environment and their communities. Thanks to Earth Force's successful service-learning framework, 150 students from five area schools are utilizing horticulture as a community-building tool.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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Get Growing with Garden Tenders

Once a week in February, Michelle Tencza would hop in her car after work and head down to Philadelphia for PHS's Garden Tenders class. Although the two-hour trek from her hometown in northern New Jersey could be arduous at times, Michelle wasn't willing to miss a single meeting.

Sally McCabe leads a group of PHS Garden Tenders.

Michelle's enthusiasm is typcial of the 2,000 men and women who have become Garden Tenders. Now in its eleventh year, the PHS project hopes to add to its ranks with spring and summer sessions.

Initiation into Garden Tenders starts with the basic training course designed for community groups and individuals who want to improve their neighborhoods by turning vacant lots into community gardens. Participants attend five classroom sessions and take a tour of the city's finest green spaces.

"We started Garden Tenders to serve those who wanted to beautify and utilize the vacant land in their neighborhood. If they have the drive, we provide the knowledge and resources to create something extraordinary," says Sally McCabe, project coordinator at PHS and head instructor of the course.

Garden Tenders is as much about organization and networking as it is about horticulture. Graduates will have assembled all the portfolios, plans, and petitions that are essential in getting such a tremendous undertaking off—or in—the ground. Garden Tenders also stresses the importance of maintenance and appropriate care to ensure a garden's sustainability.

As a result of this winning technique, nearly 100 community gardens have been established throughout the region, a fifth of the city's total. Instrumental to these successes is the Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust. NGA helps community groups research the ownership of unused land and, in some cases, has purchased garden plots to protect them from development. (See page 2 for more on NGA.)

Incredible neighborhood improvements have occurred due to the gardens. Take, for instance, the Thompson Street Senior Peace Garden, established by Debbie Thomas in North Fairmount. To counter the drug trafficking and vandalism that was plaguing her neighborhood, Debbie decided to take Garden Tenders basic training, secure a vacant space, and be the catalyst for change. Now the lot is attracting the *right* kind of attention, and residents are reveling in the bistro-style seating, rows of fresh herbs, and stunning mosaics.

"Garden Tenders has improved the lives of so many of us, especially in the neighborhoods that have problems with drugs and violence. The gardens give us hope that things can and will get better," Debbie says. "I go to each incoming Garden Tenders class to tell my story and let them know all they're capable of."

Debbie proves that even after training is complete, Garden Tenders remains an important part of the graduates' lives. Alumni often call each other to pass on helpful gardening tips or news of a great

continued inside

Edens Has Arrived

Tune in to PBS (WHYY) for the premiere of ***Edens Lost & Found***, an inspiring documentary that showcases the greening efforts of four major American cities. The Chicago-centered episode airs on May 18, and the **Philadelphia segment airs on May 25** (check local television listings for times). Philadelphia Green not only worked behind the scenes, but in front of the camera too, so watch as several staffers and volunteers get their 15 minutes of fame. The film's final installments, featuring Los Angeles and Seattle, will air in the fall.

NGA Celebrates Twenty Years of Garden Preservation

Besides the therapeutic plot tending, community gardens are ideal for relaxing and socializing. More importantly, the hundreds of community gardens in Philadelphia help create and strengthen bonds that often serve as springboards for future neighborhood improvements.

Most of the gardens aren't owned by the community members who tend them. Rather, the land usually belongs to the city or private owners who allow the site's temporary use as a garden. It's a risky situation for the gardeners, since the land's future is always uncertain. Some sites have prospered for years only to be lost when landowners decide to sell or build on their properties.

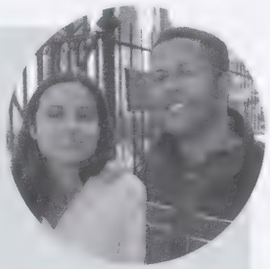
That's where the Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust (NGA) comes in. NGA is a private, nonprofit urban land trust that works to ensure the long-term preservation of community gardens in Philadelphia neighborhoods. Founded in 1986 by the collaborative efforts of PHS and the Penn

continued on back cover

Eileen Gallagher

Aspen Farms, a preserved garden in West Philadelphia.

In the Spotlight: Haile Johnston & Tatiana Garcia Granados



At the Philadelphia Green Brunch held on the final day of the Flower Show, two dedicated young volunteers received due recognition for their vast and varied efforts to improve the Strawberry Mansion and Brewerytown neighborhoods of North Philadelphia.

Engaged couple Haile Johnston and Tatiana Garcia Granados founded the East Park Revitalization Alliance (EPRA) in 2003, shortly after moving to their home in Strawberry Mansion. Their mission was to mobilize their fellow residents and create a better quality of life through greening, art, and education.

As graduates of Philadelphia Green's Garden Tenders and Tree Tenders workshops, they first set out to revamp the neighborhood with community spaces, clean lots, and tons of trees. "Besides the obvious lessons in tree and garden care, we were taught how community collaboration can allow a small number of people to have a grand impact," Haile, a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, says. "So we knew it was important to get our neighbors involved."

From its inception, EPRA wisely decided to employ only residents of their community, thus assisting the neighborhood both aesthetically and economically. Last year alone, 20 community residents were put to work on a part-time basis.

In addition to the adults, Haile and Tatiana strive to integrate the community children into their efforts. By doing so, they instill a sense of pride and proprietorship in the area's youngest residents. They even organized a summer camp and after-school program to teach the children about nutrition and healthy living.

The accomplishments of EPRA are immediately visible when traveling through Strawberry Mansion. To date, EPRA has planted 175 trees; a remarkable transformation that harkens back to the neighborhood's formerly-lush landscape. Working with Philadelphia Green's Community LandCare, a vacant land management project funded by the City's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, EPRA also oversees the monthly upkeep of 250 parcels of vacant land, in addition to the 335,000 square feet of stabilized lots it sustains.

One such lot is directly across the street from Haile and Tatiana's home. Because of their persistence, the view outside their window is no longer abandoned housing, but rather a colorful mural and lush lawn. "When the renovations were completed, 300 of our neighbors joined us in celebration. Now, every time I look out, I think of how great the change is and how proud I am of my neighborhood," Tatiana says.

Of course there's little time for reflection. EPRA is in the midst of its spring planting, which includes the planting of 50 more trees. The pair are also preparing for a second year of the summer camp.

"Wanting to improve our community seems like such a natural thing, that it's surprising to receive such attention," the couple said in regards to their accolades at the brunch. "Still, it's a tremendous honor, and we are extremely proud. We hope to advance the Philadelphia Green mission as much as we can."

Making the Most of May

A Guide to Springtime Activities

Now that the Flower Show has primed the pump for gardeners throughout the region, it's time to get out and make the most of spring! PHS has planned a bevy of educational programs and activities that are sure to make this a season to remember. So call some friends and join us for guaranteed good times. Here's the scoop on some amazing events in May.

The Great Tree Jamboree, a series of happenings that began last month in Delaware and Montgomery counties, continues with two May events in Bucks County and Philadelphia. The festivities aim to generate awareness of Southeastern Pennsylvania's depleted tree canopy and promote TreeVitalize, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

First up, on May 6, Peddler's Village will host its annual Strawberry Festival. Tantalize your taste buds with an assortment of strawberry-based confections, listen to live music, and shop till you drop in this bucolic Bucks County locale. But before the day is through, be sure to drop by the TreeVitalize booth for informative handouts and fun children's activities. Go to *www.peddlersvillage.com* for details.

Then, on May 14, head over to Philadelphia's Friends Hospital for Garden Day. This annual event, now in its 66th year, allows visitors to explore the hospital's 100-acre arboretum of trees, spring flowers, and blooming shrubs. Look for the TreeVitalize booth to answer your tree queries and to pick up a free tree guide. Go to *www.friendshospital.org* for details.

PHS and TreeVitalize hope the Jamboree inspires you to plant a tree this season. For more event information, as well as a rebate coupon for tree purchases, go to *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org.*

If you're seeking something more chic, we've got that covered too. On May 11, between 5:30 and 8 pm, PHS hosts the annual **Azalea Garden Party**. This elegant evening is more than an excuse to dress up in your finest, most fanciful hat (a longstanding tradition); it is also a chance to support the year-round maintenance of this four-acre oasis located just west of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. To request an invitation, please call Ellen Wheeler at 215-988-8830 or email *ewheeler@pennhort.org.*

City Hall in Bloom

Margaret Funderburg

On May 23, head downtown to see the remarkable results of **City Hall in Bloom**, sponsored by KPMG. Volunteers from the international consulting firm, celebrating its 100th year in Philadelphia, will aid PHS staffers in planting hundreds of annuals at City Hall and on JFK Plaza. Fourth-grade students from Fairmount's Bache-Martin School have also been enlisted to lend a helping hand. If you're looking for an outdoorsy way to pass the day, pack a lunch, grab your camera, and visit a cleaner, greener City Hall surrounded by begonias, coleuses, and impatiens.

After a long month of activities, gather up some friends on May 25 and relax with a movie night. Tune in to PBS for the premiere broadcast of ***Edens Lost & Found***, an enlightening film about progressive greening efforts in four American metropolises. The May 25 segment of the documentary is wholly dedicated to our fine city, and features a multitude of Philadelphia Green projects and volunteers. Have the popcorn ready; you don't want to miss a second of this fine film produced by Wiland-Bell. Please check local television listings for times.

May will be gone before you know it, so don't hesitate to get involved with these outstanding events.

Eileen Gallagher

Tree Jamboree

A Friend In Need

On the morning of March 4, the Village of Arts and Humanities, located in North Central Philadelphia, suffered a fire. Thankfully no one was seriously injured; however, several of the Village's facilities, including the digital media center used by local teenagers, sustained significant damage. If you would like to financially assist the Village during this difficult time, please call 215-225-7830 or email *lauren@villagearts.org.*

City Gardening Series

Generously Supported Through a Collaborative Partnership with Chanticleer ... A Pleasure Garden, *in Wayne, PA*

These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*, or browse the calendar on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*.

Fragrant Flower Garden
Wednesday, May 3, 7 – 8 pm
Katherine Drexel Branch,
Free Library of Philadelphia
11099 Knights Road
Garden writer and educator Eva Monheim gives ideas on designs and plants to bring fragrance to the garden.

Container Gardening with Herbs
Monday, May 8, 4 – 5 pm
Queen Memorial Branch,
Free Library of Philadelphia
1201 S. 23rd Street
Learn how to successfully plant and grow herbs in a variety of containers throughout the growing season.

Gardening with Kids
Wednesday, May 10, 4 – 5 pm
Joseph E. Coleman Branch,
Free Library of Philadelphia
68 West Chelten Avenue
Eva Monheim shares advice and fun ideas for gardening with children.

Attracting Birds to Your Garden
Wednesday, May 10, 7 – 8 pm
Fox Chase Free Library of Philadelphia
501 Rhawn Street
Eva Monheim gives handy information on which garden plants attract and feed birds.

The Urban Garden:
Pits, Plots, and the Window Box
Saturday, May 13, 10 am – 1 pm
The Trinity Center for Urban Life
22nd and Spruce Streets
Landscape designer Toni Ann Flanigan presents the secrets of successful urban gardening and leads a guided walking tour of award-winning private gardens of Center City. The presentations are offered at 10 and 11, followed by the tour. Admission is $5 per person. Make reservations at 215-732-2515.

Designing and Planting Window Boxes
Monday, May 15, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Richmond Free Library of Philadelphia
2987 Almond Street
Penn State Extension educator Doris Stahl demonstrates plant selection, design, watering, and fertilizing for lush, colorful window boxes.

Blooming Houseplants
Wednesday, May 17, 7 – 8 pm
Fox Chase Free Library of Philadelphia
501 Rhawn Street
Horticultural therapist Mona Gold demonstrates how, with proper care, flowering houseplants will joyfully blossom.

Spring Bus Trip to Chanticleer
Thursday, May 18, 5 – 8 pm
Buses will leave PHS, 100 N. 20th Street at 5 pm and return at 8:30 pm
Join us as Chanticleer staffer Jonathan Wright leads a workshop on "Designing the Mixed Border." **Register by May 11. Fee: $5.**

Planting Summer Bulbs
Saturday, May 20, 10 – 11 am
Frankford Free Library of Philadelphia
4634 Frankford Avenue
Community gardener Janet Carter leads this hands-on workshop demonstrating planting techniques for summer bulbs. Please come prepared to help with the planting.

Planning Your Summer Garden
Wednesday, May 24, 7 – 8 pm
Fox Chase Free Library of Philadelphia
501 Rhawn Street
Horticultural educator Charlotte Kidd offers tips for plant selection and garden planning.

Gardening in Containers
Saturday, May 27, 10 – 11 am
Southwest Community Development Corporation
6328 Paschall Avenue
Using a variety of plants, community gardener Janet Carter shows how to have attractive seasonal containers throughout the summer.

Houseplants and Their Care
Wednesday, May 31, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
West Oak Lane Branch,
Free Library of Philadelphia
2000 Washington Lane
Lori Hayes offers tips for growing and maintaining flowering and foliage houseplants.

Growing Vegetable & Flowers in Containers
Saturday, June 3, 10 – 11 am
Holly Street Neighbors Community Garden
421 N. 42nd Street
Janet Carter shows how to have an attractive container garden using a variety of plants.

Container Gardens
Monday, June 5, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Haverford Free Library of Philadelphia
5543 Haverford Avenue
Penn State Extension educator Doris Stahl demonstrates the versatility and ease of gardening in containers.

Easy & Colorful Containers
Wednesday, June 7, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Wadsworth Free Library of Philadelphia
1500 Wadsworth Avenue
Horticultural therapist Mona Gold shares information about creating exciting color combinations for your container garden.

Gardening with Kids
Saturday, June 10, 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Falls of Schuylkill Branch,
Free Library of Philadelphia
3501 Midvale Avenue
Horticultural educator Eva Monheim gives tips for creating and maintaining successful gardens with children.

Kitchen Gardens
Saturday, June 17, 10:00 - 12:00 pm
Historic Bartram's Garden
54th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard
Mona Gold shows how to plant edible flowers and vegetables for beauty and practicality. This workshop is followed by a tour of Bartram's Heirloom Garden.

Congratulations Iris!

On January 20, a festival honoring Iris Brown was held at the townhouses and rental apartments that now bear her name. The event, hosted by the Women's Community Revitalization Project, served as a milestone in the continuing effort to provide truly affordable housing for Philadelphia's families.

Garden Tenders

continued from front page

plant sale. They also partake in the continuing education opportunities PHS offers, such as the City Gardening Series and Garden Tenders' Third Thursday workshops, which run from March through December.

"I've made some really good friends at basic training. Together we visit parks and arboretums and help each other with our gardens. It's a great support system," says Garden Tenders graduate Corrine Fields, whose Lindenwood Gardens has done wonders for Southwest Philadelphia.

"I've been doing this type of work for nearly 30 years, and I'm still amazed at the good will it generates," Sally says. "At Garden Tenders, we love to help people who are willing to help themselves, their neighborhoods, and the city."

To get involved with Garden Tenders, contact the Education Services department at PHS. Please call 215-988-8846, or visit *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org.*

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

BARE-ROOT TREE DISTRIBUTION

For most people, crocuses and daffodils are the earliest harbingers of spring. But for PHS, spring officially starts with the arrival of the bare-root trees. On March 17, approximately 500 tiny timbers were delivered to the University of Pennsylvania campus for bagging and distribution.

photos by Daniel Moise

▲ *Here, with a picture-perfect view of the city skyline, Tree Tenders and PHS staffers busily bagged the bare-root beauties. Honey locust, swamp white oak, and red maple were a few of the many tree varieties brought all the way from Iowa.*

▲ *Bagging trees is dirty work! The roots are first dipped in a special solution to help the trees absorb and keep moisture. The trees are then finagled into large bags to protect the roots from damage during the journey to their future homes.*

► *Once tagged and sorted, the trees were dispersed to various Philadelphia neighborhoods. Winnie Harris of UC Green, seen here with PHS's Mike Hardy, represented one of the 40 community groups involved in the forestation of the city.*

NGA Turns 20

continued from page 2

State Urban Gardening Program, NGA celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

PHS executive vice president J. Blaine Bonham Jr. was one of NGA's founding board members and recalls the impetus for the organization: "PHS was looking to preserve some of the large community gardens that had become vital resources for their neighborhoods. We helped form a group of interested representatives from the community, city, government, businesses, and other nonprofits to establish NGA and offer assistance to gardeners who wanted to preserve their sites."

Terry Mushovic, NGA's executive director, explains that gardens play a major role in improving struggling neighborhoods, but are taken for granted as developers become interested in building there. "Communities want to keep their green spaces as the neighborhoods improve, but usually don't have the resources to acquire them. As a land trust, NGA holds title to the land and ensures its continuation as a garden."

Twenty-four community gardens are currently in the land trust, and an additional 13 are working toward preservation. These vegetable and flower gardens have strengthened, beautified, and enriched their neighborhoods. "Making our garden permanent is a tribute to all the people who worked hard to create it," says Hayward Ford of West Philadelphia's Aspen Farms.

The NGA Board, staff, and gardeners will celebrate their 20th anniversary with a series of events at gardens throughout the city. Check the NGA website at *www.ngalandtrust.org* for more information.

– Jane Carroll and Margot Berg

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Summer in the City Just Got a Little Cooler

There's no need to travel far and wide for outstanding summer entertainment. Instead, call up some friends and join Philadelphia Green for its **Summer in the Neighborhood** series—an engaging array of activities and events happening in a dozen neighborhood parks. Presented by our Parks Revitalization Project, the diverse programming is designed to acquaint attendees with the city's various communities.

A Concert at Malcolm X Park

"Before, people in one neighborhood wouldn't know about a great event being held across town. By spreading the word about the events, we hope to attract more people and promote our great parks network," says Kimberly Massare, parks coordinator for Philadelphia Green.

Summer in the Neighborhood has something for all ages and interests. Music lovers can soak up the sounds of the big band era at Kahn Park (Aug. 16) or groove to golden oldies at Campbell Square (July 26). For something a bit more modern, Cianfrani Park hosts the indie-rock sensation Restraining Order (Aug. 18), and Gorgas Park has hometown heroes Ike and Outset (July 28).

Park-hoppers can take a musical tour around the globe this summer, starting with a Polish polka at Campbell Square (June 28), Echoes of Africa at Malcolm X Park (July 8), and the Celtic cacophony of The Hooligans at Gorgas Park (Sept. 7). For the distinctly American, soulful sounds of jazz, Malcolm X Park and Cedar Park offer an abundance of performances throughout the season.

"There's so much variation in genre and style, the only things these musicians have in common is talent," says Paul Bonfanti, parks project manager at PHS.

But the Summer in the Neighborhood series provides more than just music; several parks are continuing the Department of Recreation's Movie Night tradition. In addition to blockbuster sensations and family-friendly fare, the series also includes atypical selections such as a "Three Stooges" marathon at Jefferson Square (July 26) and classic comedies from Laurel and Hardy (July 7) and Charlie Chaplin (Aug. 4) at Clark Park.

Shopaholics are also in for a treat. Several parks host farmers' markets and flea markets through the summer, and Gorgas, Kahn, and Cianfrani parks will all have craft sales to usher in autumn.

This is just a sampling of what Summer in the Neighborhood has in store. For the complete list, including events at Conshohocken, Mario Lanza, and Nicetown parks, check the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*, or call 215-988-1611 for a brochure.

The calendar of Summer in the Neighborhood events is posted on the PHS website, and brochures are available by calling 215-988-1611.

Gold Medal Site Gets an Update

PHS has always been proud of its Gold Medal Plant Award program, and now there's a topnotch website to go with it. User-friendly and full of handy information, the new site showcases what makes Gold Medal plants so spectacular.

Perhaps the best feature of the new site is the elaborate search feature that enables you to find the perfect Gold Medal plant for your particular needs. You can sort the dozens of species by size, flower color, sun/shade preference, and even hardiness. The advance search lets you discover every imaginable intricacy of a plant, such as pest resistance, soil preference, and wet-weather tolerance.

Once you select the perfect plant, the website will show you where to purchase it. Not only will you find a list of stores that carry your plant, the site also lists public gardens where the species can be found.

As always, each plant featured on the site has been evaluated by a distinguished committee of knowledgeable horticulturists and deemed Gold Medal-worthy. This distinctive honor ensures a high standard of excellence in terms of eye-appeal, performance, and hardiness.

PHS's Gold Medal Plant Award program, in collaborative partnership with the Chanticleer Pleasure Garden, promotes woody plants of exceptional merit that thrive in the mid-Atlantic region. PHS is grateful to The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, which provided funds for the website upgrade.

Wisteria frutescens 'Amethyst Falls' (American Wisteria)

To find the Gold Medal plant that's perfect for your home landscape or community garden, visit *www.goldmedalplants.com*.

In the Spotlight: Heather Ascher

In 1928, the publication "Building Developer" referred to the English Village, a block of homes near Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square, as "an oasis of peace and beauty in the midst of busy business blocks." Now, 78 years later, the statement still holds true, and it's largely due to Heather Ascher.

Thanks to Heather's ability to organize and inspire her neighbors, the 20 stately homes that surround the old-fashioned 2100 block of St. James Place are tastefully adorned with lush gardens. "Front-yard gardens were part of the architect's original design, so we wanted to preserve that. Being a part of PHS's City Gardens Contest has taken our commitment to a whole new level," Heather says.

Relative newcomers to the annual competition, the English Village gardeners have consistently exceeded expectations. Although they won first place in 2004, for Heather, the sweetest victory was their first foray into the event three years prior.

"In 2001 we came in second, and we were *shocked*. As individuals we had very little experience, so I suppose our award was based on combined effort," Heather says. "That's what the contest is all about: generating a sense of community. We're a diversified group with at least one thing in common—the love of green."

The English Village has attracted the attention of Councilman Darrell Clarke, who Heather sagaciously invited to a garden party in 2001. "Because his office provides Philadelphia Green with funding, I thought he should see how the City Gardens Contest helped shape up our block. I hoped he'd remember it when drafting the budget," she says. Councilman Clarke graciously accepted the invitation and was thoroughly impressed by the botanical beauty and neighborhood pride.

Such shrewdness earned Heather the opportunity to join the board of directors of the Center City Residents' Association (CCRA), a well-established civic organization dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life in downtown Philadelphia. She has served on the CCRA board since 2004.

Heather is also a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. "I was concerned about the diminishing amounts of green space in Center City," she says. "Philadelphia Green empowers people to make our city a more attractive, safe, and livable place through horticulture, and I wanted to help."

Interestingly, the invitation to join the Advisory Board arose shortly after the death of Heather's father, Edward Turner, a lifelong florist. Part of her motivation to accept the position was to commemorate his love of nature. Heather's mother, Ruth, is also an avid gardener with a verdant property in Delaware County. Heather says, "Try as I may, my thumb will never be as green as my parents'."

City Gardening Series

Generously supported through a collaborative partnership with **Chanticleer ... A Pleasure Garden**, *in Wayne, PA*

The City Gardening Series is designed to enhance stewardship of Philadelphia's green spaces. These workshops are free and open to the public (unless otherwise noted). For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*, or browse the calendar on the PHS website, *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*.

Terrariums: Landscapes in Miniature

Monday, July 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Philadelphia City Institute Free Library
1905 Locust Street

Make the gardening season last all year. Penn State Extension educator Doris Stahl offers easy decorating, planting, and maintenance advice about terrariums.

Designing Containers for the Small Garden

Wednesday, July 12, 6 – 7 pm
Woodstock Community Center
2829 N. Lambert Street

Community gardener Janet Carter shows how to have an attractive container garden using a variety of plants in creative ways.

Summer Bus Trip to Chanticleer

Thursday, July 20, 5 – 8 pm

Join us for an enchanting evening at Chanticleer, a wonderful 32-acre garden of ever-changing colors and textures. Chanticleer staffer Laura Aiken will lead a tour focusing on ways to attract butterflies and hummingbirds to the garden.

Buses will leave PHS, 100 North 20th Street, at 5 pm sharp, returning to Philadelphia by 9 pm. Please bring a light supper; snacks and refreshments will be supplied. Due to limited space; interested individuals must **register by Thursday, June 13**. Call 215-988-8872. Fee: $5.

Water Gardens for Small Spaces

Monday, August 7, 4 – 5 pm
Kensington Branch
Free Library of Philadelphia
104 W. Dauphin Street

Any lawn or garden can feature the wonder of water. At this workshop, environmental educator Eva Monheim shares how water features can be ideally suited to small garden spaces.

Cooking with Herbs

Saturday, August 26, 10 – 11 am
Awbury Arboretum, Cope House
One Awbury Road
Chew Avenue between Washington Lane and Haines Street

Community gardener and chef Delmer Gill demonstrates how to tastefully cook with herbs from the garden.

The New Look of Logan Square

After six months of hard work, landscape renovations at Philadelphia's Logan Square are substantially complete. The project, funded through a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts and support from the Fairmount Park Commission, is part of a larger effort to revitalize the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, which stretches from City Hall to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Margaret Funderburg

The improvements are astounding. Logan Square now boasts a whole new landscape, including pathways and lush planting beds. The new flowers and shrubs are inspired by the plants collected by Lewis and Clark on their historic journey, which had its roots in Philadelphia.

But more improvements are underway. Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA, is growing 12 new empress trees (*Paulownia tomentosa*) that will be transplanted to the square in November.

Says Mark Focht, executive director of Fairmount Park, "We look forward to working with PHS on a variety of projects in the years ahead, including further landscape improvements to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway."

– Jane Carroll

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

On April 21, PHS hosted its annual **KIDS GROW EXPO** *on the campus of Temple University Ambler. More than 6,000 students from schools all over the Philadelphia region came to see the awesome exhibits of the "Junior Flower Show."*

photos by Margaret Funderburg

▲ *Children do their best impersonation of a worm during story time.*

▲ *The judges carefully evaluate the entries before them.*

Three youngsters proudly present their displays. ►

▲ *Paul Malvey, featured in* Edens *for his greening efforts in New Kensington, receives an autograph from the film's celebrity host, actor David Morse.*

EDENS LOST & FOUND, *the PBS documentary all about urban greening, was screened for a group of Philadelphia's civic and community leaders on May 3. Mayor John Street, filmmakers Harry Wiland and Dale Bell, and all the film's "stars" were a part of the capacity crowd at the Kimmel Center. Special thanks to corporate sponsor CDM for making the evening a success.*

◄

J. Blaine Bonham Jr., executive vice-president of PHS, delivers the closing remarks.

THE GREAT TREE JAMBOREE was a five-county celebration organized to raise awareness about the importance of trees. Sponsored by TreeVitalize, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Jamboree included children's activities, planting ceremonies, and overall good times.

Steve Maurer

▲ *Students' eco-awareness is put to the test for "Environmental Jeopardy."*

▼ *An abundance of trees were available for those interested in helping restore Southeastern Pennsylvania's depleted tree canopy.*

This year's Earth Day was a wet one, but the rain didn't deter more than 500 volunteers from participating in the 7th annual **SPRING INTO YOUR PARK** on Saturday, April 22. Neighborhood parks across the city received a massive spring cleaning thanks to the efforts of these waterproof volunteers who ranged in age from 8 to 81.

▲ *Dedicated community residents were joined by student volunteers from Temple, St. Joe's, Drexel, Penn, Thomas Jefferson University, Abington Friends School, Northeast Treatment Center, and Leadership Philadelphia.*

▲ *In the few hours before the deluge, 557 bags of trash and debris were collected and removed from the parks, eight trees and 905 flowers were planted, and 18 graffiti sites were abated.*

◄ *Spring Into Your Park is sponsored annually by Philadelphia Green, the Department of Recreation, the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, and community park friends groups.*

Rain, Rain Go Away!

Despite heavy rain, volunteer gardeners showed up at Eastern State Penitentiary on April 8 for the all-important "spring cleaning" (cutting back the ornamental grasses and planting summer bulbs). Talk about dedication!

From left to right: PHS Project Manager Julie Snell and volunteers Miriam Galster, Roberta Reiner, Dorene Martin, Betsy Wollensak, Vincent Mazzola, Alison McDowell, and Bruce Martin.

NGA Events

The Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust (NGA) is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is the long-term preservation of community-managed green spaces in Philadelphia.

White Dog Café Neighborhood Tour of NGA Gardens
Saturday, July 8: 8:30 am

The perfect way to spend a Saturday; includes a coffee and muffin breakfast, trolley tour around town, and lunch. The cost is $45, a portion of which will be donated to NGA. Call 215-386-9224 to register.

Happy 20th NGA!
Friday, July 21: 4 – 7 pm

Come celebrate 20 years of preserving community green spaces. Refreshments and a delicious birthday cake will be served at the Southwark Queen Village Garden, 3rd and Christian Streets.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

PHS Hosts *Edens*-Inspired Symposium

Keynote Speaker Wangari Maathai

PHS, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Media & Policy Center Foundation are proud to host a national symposium called ***Growing Greener Cities***, an exploration of environmental issues for the present-day city. The event, which runs from October 15 through 17, is inspired by the nationally televised documentary *Edens Lost & Found*, a groundbreaking film by Wiland-Bell Productions that explores urban revitalization efforts in Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Philadelphia.

The keynote speaker for the symposium is **Wangari Maathai**, who in 2004 became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Professor Maathai created the Green Belt Movement, a grassroots organization in Kenya that enables women's groups to conserve the environment and improve the quality of life by planting trees.

"I can't imagine anyone who is better suited for this event," says PHS education director Eva Ray. "For years professor Maathai has campaigned for environmental revitalization and there's so much we stand to learn from her."

Other elements of the symposium include three plenary sessions and a dozen panel discussions. These gatherings will delve into a range of topics that include the economic implications of sustainable practices, the quest for environmental justice, and the successful management of natural resources.

PHS executive vice president J. Blaine Bonham Jr. will lead a dialogue on reclaiming and greening urban land. He says, "We've assembled an impressive crew of academics, activists, and practitioners to participate in this event. It is an opportunity to take the *Edens Lost & Found* message and explore the various ways to apply it."

The film's Academy Award-winning creators, Harry Wiland and Dale Bell, will be on hand to share their insights, as will representatives from all four featured cities. In cased you missed the initial airing, the Philadelphia portion of the documentary will be screened at the symposium on October 16.

The film is also available on DVD, which can be purchased at *www.edenslostandfound.org*, along with a companion book and a high school curriculum on urban environments and ecosystems.

"We want *Edens* to have a lasting impact and the symposium will ensure that," Eva says. "I hope all who attend will leave with a new outlook on the possibilities of greening our cities for the future."

For more information, a program schedule, or to register, please call 215-988-8772 or email *growinggreener@pennhort.org*.

Growing Greener Cities

Symposium on Urban Environmental Issues in the 21st Century
October 15 – 17, 2006
At the University of Pennsylvania

Edens Trolley Tour

Led by the filmmakers
October 18, 2006, 9 am – 3 pm
Call 215-988-8869 to sign up

Growing Greener Cities is hosted by PHS, the Penn Institute for Urban Research, and the Media and Policy Center Foundation (Wiland-Bell Productions). Other sponsors include the Office of the Provost's Global Forum, University of Pennsylvania; The School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania; The Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Pennsylvania; and CDM consulting firm. Funded in part by the William Penn Foundation

PHS and the Burpee Foundation Partner on Teacher Training Program

The start of a new school year coincides perfectly with the launch of PHS's latest educational initiative, **Green City Teachers**. The innovative program is designed to provide Philadelphia educators with the skills necessary to help students appreciate the role of nature in their lives, even in an urban setting.

"Youth education has always been an important component of our work at PHS. Through Green City Teachers, we'll work directly with educators to combine the best of all we've learned," says Patricia Schrieber, PHS community education manager.

"Both PHS and Burpee have long legacies in Philadelphia, so it's fitting that we collaborate to help the next generation connect with the environment."

George Ball
President and CEO, W. Atlee Burpee & Co.

In the next few months, participating teachers will begin integrating horticultural and environmental education into curriculums, after-school programs, and service-learning projects. A support network will also be established to provide the teachers with a forum for sharing ideas.

The PHS program is made possible by a generous grant from the **Burpee Foundation**, a nonprofit offshoot of the 130-year-old W. Atlee Burpee & Co. The renowned seed supplier is involved with numerous charitable causes, both nationally and abroad.

Burpee CEO and president George Ball says, "We're thrilled to help provide young people with what I call 'plant literacy.' Both PHS and Burpee have long legacies in Philadelphia, so it's fitting that we collaborate to help the next generation connect with the environment."

Become a "Green" Teacher

Philadelphia educators are invited to:

- Integrate horticulture and environmental education into the classroom
- Join a network of teachers
- Participate in a forum for sharing ideas

Save the Dates

Wed., Oct. 11:	Basic Horticulture
Wed., Oct. 18:	Food Gardening
Sat., Oct. 21:	Wildlife Habitat Garden (field trip)
Wed., Oct. 25:	Trees: Tending the Urban Forest
Wed., Nov. 1:	Indoor Gardening

Come to all or choose three out of four training sessions on Wednesdays, 5:30–8:30 pm, and the Saturday trip. Act 48 accreditation pending.

For more details about the Green City Teachers or to register, contact Sally McCabe at 215-988-8846 or *smccabe@pennhort.org*.

In the Spotlight: Melba Axelrod

When her children grew up and went out on their own, Melba Axelrod decided to leave Lancaster and return to her Philadelphia roots. Her motivation for the move included the desire to be nearer to old friends and the opportunity to absorb the city's many cultural experiences. What she hadn't anticipated was becoming the go-to gal for one of the city's most beloved landmarks.

"Shortly after I moved to the city's Fairmount neighborhood I saw a tiny notice in the local paper. It said that PHS was looking for volunteers to help with the Azalea Garden and I thought, 'Well this might be fun,'" she says.

Now, 17 years down the line, Melba is one of the garden's most committed advocates. Living across the street from the four-acre site, in many ways she considers it an extension of her own front lawn. "Sometimes I joke that it's my garden alone, and that I'm just very welcoming of visitors," she says.

Melba's attachment to the garden is certainly understandable; she's weathered stubborn soil, sick trees, and all the other challenges of keeping such a public landscape in peak condition. She says, "I can't say it's always been easy, but when I walk through the garden and see the joggers, the children, and even an occasional yoga class, it gives me great pride and pleasure to know other people enjoy it as much as I do."

But Melba's involvement with PHS extends beyond the Azalea Garden. She also contributes to the cause by manning the Philadelphia Green exhibit at the Flower Show and serving on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. Through these roles, Melba says she now has a better understanding of the importance of promoting a sustainable, green city.

Still, the Azalea Garden will always be her first love, and the annual fundraising party hosted on the lush lawns rejuvenates that passion. "It's inspiring to see all the people who turn out to support the garden," she says. "Of course, who can blame them? It's so peaceful, yet exciting—truly a treasure."

Philadelphia Green Stormwater Sites Visited

With all the forecasts predicting a downpour, June 2 turned out to be the ideal day to showcase PHS's stormwater management sites to a group from New York City. Representing nearly a dozen different government agencies and environmental nonprofits, the visitors were eager to compare notes on stormwater retention systems with the Philadelphia Green staff.

"Every city is a bit different, but there are still things we can glean from one another. By networking like this, you get to see things a different way and explore new possibilities that you hadn't before," says Lisa McDonald Hanes of Philadelphia Green.

The tour began with a visit to several of the low-impact swales Philadelphia Green has established on vacant lots. These aesthetically pleasing sites, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, are designed to slowly absorb rainwater, rather than have it directly enter the city's already-strained sewer system. The tour bus also made its way to several community gardens, including Aspen Farms and Mill Creek Farm, where new methods of water conservation are being explored.

Photos by Daniel Moise

Eileen Gallagher of Philadelphia Green speaks to the visitors at Las Parcelas community garden in Norris Square.

"Everything we saw was effective and surprisingly simple. I hope we adopt some of these practices in New York," says trip organizer Robin Simmen, manager of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's community horticulture program.

The New Yorkers and their hosts smile for the camera at Aspen Farms community garden in West Philadelphia.

Not only were the sites helpful to the out-of-towners, but they were also impressed by the fruitful collaboration between PHS and city agencies. In fact, Glen Abrams of the Philadelphia Water Department volunteered to help guide the excursion. An urban watersheds planner, Glen says, "The group's reactions and feedback provided an outside perspective that can help make our projects even better."

Because the day was such a success (despite, or perhaps *due to*, the rain), Philadelphia Green hopes to reverse roles and take a group of Pennsylvanians up to the Big Apple.

"I look forward to showing off our rainwater harvesting sites," Robin says. "I think networking like this is an invaluable experience."

Save the date!

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, September 30, for the 8th annual **Fall For Your Park**, held this year at Ferko Playground & Tacony Creek in Juniata. A variety of projects will take place, in addition to the food, fun, and free t-shirt for all volunteers. Call 215-988-1611 or email *parks@pennhort.org* to get involved.

City Gardening Series

Generously supported through a collaborative partnership with Chanticleer ... A Pleasure Garden, *in Wayne, PA*

Chanticleer through the Seasons: Autumn

Thursday, September 21, 5–8 pm

Join us for an enchanting evening at Chanticleer Pleasure Garden, a wonderful 32-acre garden of ever-changing colors and textures. Chanticleer staffer Joe Henderson will lead a tour focusing on the ponds and water features in the gardens.

Buses will leave PHS, 100 North 20th Street, at 5 pm **SHARP**, returning to Philadelphia by 9 pm. Although dinner is not provided, snacks and refreshments will be supplied. Due to limited space, registration and a $5 fee are required. For more information and to **REGISTER by September 11**, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*.

www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

Philadelphia parks were sizzling this summer with outstanding concerts, family-friendly movie nights, and opportunities to shop the day away. A collaborative effort between Philadelphia Green and the Department of Recreation, the **SUMMER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD** *series prompted thousands of people to turn out and enjoy the city's community parks.*

If you missed out on the fun, don't be discouraged; September has plenty to offer. For more information, email parks@pennhort.org.

Margaret Funderburg

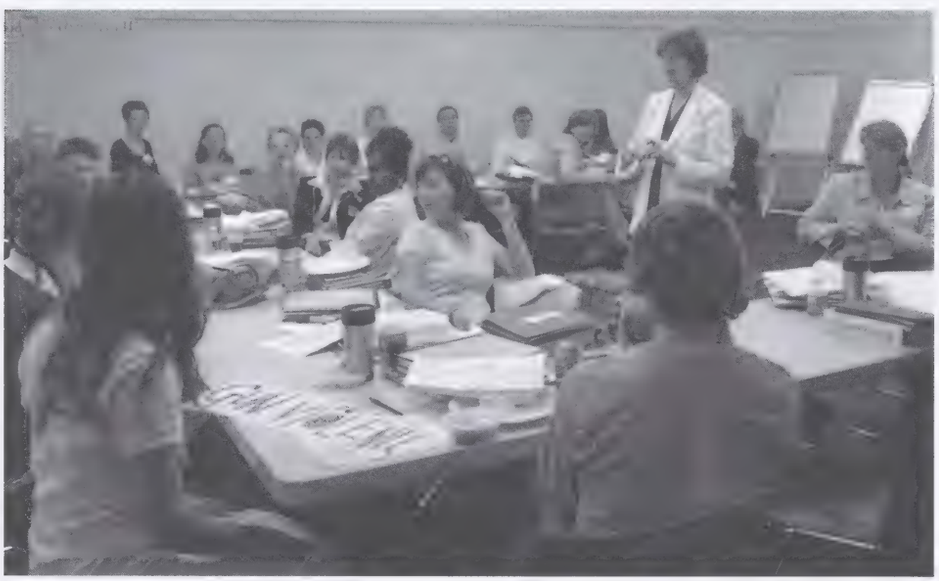
▲ *On July 13, Roxborough's Gorgas Park welcomed singer-songwriter Ben Arnold and other talented musicians.*

The sounds of polka fill the air at Campbell Square in Port Richmond. ▶

The PHS offices were bursting with youthful energy this June when 17 intrepid college students came to receive training from our staff. As part of the **KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL** *internship program, these future landscape architects and urban planners proceeded to take their new-found knowledge out into the real world and apply it to greening projects of their own design.*

"The interns were very eager to share their skills, but wanted to be great learners as well," says Philadelphia Green director Joan Reilly. "That combination produces fantastic results."

▼ *Joan Reilly leads a training seminar at the PHS offices.*



Photos by Jesse Hunting

▲ *Intern Stasya gets help from a friend at the Village of Arts and Humanities.*

▲ *Interns Nick, Ryan, Laura, and Anthony build a garden bed.*

Photo by Laura Beitman

On May 23, PHS hosted its annual **CITY HALL IN BLOOM**. *This year, more than 200 volunteers from KPMG, an audit, risk advisory, and tax services company, worked with 30 children from the Bache-Martin School to help beautify the grounds surrounding the landmark building. Together they installed trees, pruned hedges, cleaned benches, and planted 5,000 annuals!*

"It was exciting to have so many enthusiastic volunteers in one place and to see the dramatic change from when we arrived in the morning to when we left in the afternoon," says Erica Sollberger of Philadelphia Green.

The spruce-up is a joint project of PHS and the Fairmount Park Commission. This year, KPMG sponsored the event in celebration of its centennial in Philadelphia.

Photos by Margaret Funderburg

▲ *Volunteers plant flowers outside City Hall.*

▲ *Hardworking KPMG employees add soil around a freshly planted tree.*

▼ *PHS president Jane Pepper (front center) joins the happy volunteers.*

Photo by Laura Beitman

▲ *From left to right: Heather Cowley, PA Department of Environmental Protection; Samuel Assefa; Robert Diemer, Delaware Valley Green Building Council; Spencer Finch, Urban Engineers; Joy Lawrence, Philadelphia Green.*

As part of the continuing **URBAN SUSTAINABILITY FORUM**, *PHS welcomed special guest Samuel Assefa to speak at the Academy of Natural Sciences on May 18. Mr. Assefa is deputy chief of staff for Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago.*

"It is critical to lead by example. I recognize it's an overused term, but there's no substitute. The government must create a culture of sustainability so it can spread through the city," he told the audience.

Mr. Assefa is charged with coordinating Chicago's land development policies. In this capacity, he oversees city departments responsible for advancing the mayor's vision on land use, architecture, urban design, and economic development.

The Urban Sustainability Forum is a series of presentations that address Philadelphia's future growth and development.

Win this Nikon Digital Camera!

Enter the 2006 Green Scene "Garden Photo Contest" (sponsored by Ritz Camera) and win a Nikon Coolpix L4 digital camera. This year's theme will be **People in the Garden**, and we're hoping to see your best shots of friends, family, gardeners or just everyday nature lovers amidst the flowers and foliage. You can also enter your favorite **flower close-ups**, **garden** and **landscape shots**, or other **nature** images.

The contest's judges—all professional photographers and gardeners from the Delaware Valley—will be looking for superb images that capture the beauty of gardening and depict PHS's mission to "create a sense of community through horticulture." Winning photos will be

published in the January/February 2007 issue of *Green Scene* magazine and on the PHS website.

For more entry information and deadlines, please visit the PHS website at *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*, or contact 215-988-8871 or *greenscene@pennhort.org* with your questions.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Logan Square is Looking Great!

As the year draws to a close, so too does one of Philadelphia Green's most remarkable downtown projects. Logan Square, located between the Philadelphia Museum of Art and City Hall on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, has undergone an extensive renovation of the landscape surrounding Swann Memorial Fountain, and the results could not be more inspiring.

Margaret Funderburg

Logan Square, midway through restoration

To celebrate the accomplishment, PHS is hosting a dedication ceremony on the square on November 6. The public is invited to attend the event, hear from the people who contributed, and see the improvements for themselves.

"The change is incredible," says Nancy O'Donnell, a director of Philadelphia Green. "I think the refurbishment reminded people why they love Logan Square; it's beautiful!"

The makeover of Logan Square included the installation of new benches, garden beds, and pathways. The flowers and shrubs selected for the square were inspired by the species collected by Lewis and Clark on their historic journey, which originated in Philadelphia. The explorers' botanical collection is housed in the nearby Academy of Natural Sciences.

Perhaps the most noticeable alteration is the "crown" of new empress trees (*Paulownia tomentosa*) that encircle the fountain. These trees, specially grown by Longwood Gardens of Kennett Square, PA, replace the original empresses, most of which were in poor condition.

Longwood cultivated several paulownias for this project; the most promising dozen then underwent a process of cutting back and root pruning in preparation for the big move. Although they may seem small now, empress trees are remarkably fast growers, and can grow nearly three feet in a single month.

The Fairmount Park Commission, which oversees the square and parkway, has been an invaluable supporter of the project, working with Philadelphia Green since the preliminary phases more than two years ago. Together the organizations will collaborate on the long-term maintenance of the landscape. Funding for the refurbishment came courtesy of Fairmount Park and The Pew Charitable Trusts, as well as the Boeing Company and the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America.

Longwood director Paul Redman says, "This project demonstrates the amazing results that can be achieved when local organizations and government join forces. Together, these groups have created a picturesque place for people in the community to enjoy for years to come. Longwood was honored to be a part of this important project."

Fairmount Park executive director Mark Focht adds, "We are delighted with the new look of Logan Square and look forward to working with PHS on a variety of projects in the years ahead, including further landscape improvements to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway."

See Logan Square in a Whole New Way!

Dedication Ceremony
Monday, November 6

Call 215-988-8800 for more information.

Open Space Matters

The City of Philadelphia is leading an effort, along with PHS and other partner organizations, to develop *GreenPlan Philadelphia*, a long-term roadmap for creating quality open spaces as a means to support the health, safety, and welfare of Philadelphians.

What is open space? A vast array of places fit the description, ranging from small gardens and plazas to expansive woodlands and wetlands. Even abandoned vacant land, some of which has potential to become park land, falls under the open space umbrella.

The aim of the *GreenPlan Philadelphia* project is to devise a comprehensive plan for the effective management of all existing and future open space in the city. Outcomes of the initiative will include an inventory of the city's natural resources, funding strategies for the plan's implementation, and an assessment of the costs and benefits of quality open space.

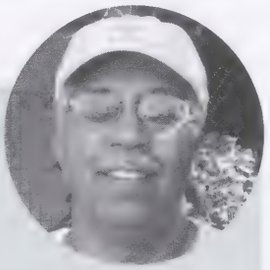
Beyond the apparent environmental advantages, open spaces create an appealing atmosphere that provides relief from congested urban surroundings. From a social standpoint, greening has been proven to reduce crime and encourage community development. What's more, open spaces increase tourism, attract reinvestment, and raise property values, overall aiding a city's economic picture.

GreenPlan Philadelphia, funded by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the City of Philadelphia, the William Penn Foundation and in-kind resources, can only meet its potential with the assistance of city residents. Visit *www.GreenPlanPhiladelphia.com* to learn about upcoming community meetings, complete user surveys, and contact the individuals overseeing the project. The input of all Philadelphians is greatly encouraged and appreciated.

Grant Update

A longstanding supporter of urban greening, the William Penn Foundation recently awarded PHS a two-year, 2.5 million dollar grant, beginning in fall 2006. The grant will help launch greening initiatives in target neighborhoods, restore the areas along the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, and work to inform and influence government policies regarding open space.

"We have big plans for this outstanding grant," says Mike Groman, senior director of Philadelphia Green. "As always, we are thrilled that the William Penn Foundation is continuing to support the growth and development of communities by investing in the city's green infrasructure."



In the Spotlight: Warren McMichael

Most individuals who volunteer to help Philadelphia Green and TreeVitalize restore the urban tree canopy commit to planting one tree, maybe two. Warren McMichael, a resident of Philadelphia's Brewerytown neighborhood, would settle for no fewer than 150.

A lifelong advocate of green spaces, Warren made it his mission to blanket his neighborhood with new street trees. Of course, such undertakings are never easy; like a campaigning politician Warren went door-to-door rallying support and encouraging his neighbors to plant a tree on their property. "That many trees make a major difference. We residents have always known the neighborhood's potential, now we're seeing it fulfilled," he says.

The reintroduction of trees is just one of several ways Warren is helping his hometown come into its own. As president of the Brewerytown-Sharswood Community Civic Association, he helps clean up vacant land, plan pocket parks, and stimulate community involvement. Warren firmly believes in the benefits of clean and open spaces, particularly for youth. "Everyone is concerned about childhood obesity, and I see parks and gardens as the perfect way to counter it. Open space allows for all kinds of exercise," he says.

Not only does he try to improve the environment for local youth, Warren also encourages their academic development. He has organized a program in which retired craftspeople work directly with students to teach skills that could potentially provide career opportunities in the future. He says, "Young people are the stakeholders in the community, and I hope to give them a wider perspective as to their potential. Providing a greater sense of self-worth makes them less likely to go down paths of destruction."

Such optimism and conviction are what make Warren a welcome addition to the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. Having collaborated with Philadelphia Green on several projects in the past 20 years, he has a keen understanding of the program's mission. As part of the board, Warren's main aim is to promote the cleaning and greening of vacant land in all the city's neighborhoods.

"Philadelphia Green understands the need for partnership, which is something I, too, value," he says. "I am very thankful for all the dedicated people in my neighborhood. None of these changes could have happened without the community recognizing the value of greening."

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

▼ *The Summer Youth Environmental Stewardship Program is a collaboration among Philadelphia Green, the city's Department of Recreation, and the Fairmount Park Commission. It provided six weeks of paid employment to 41 young people who participated in stewardship activities in Philadelphia parks and recreations centers. Below are some of the teens at Cobbs Creek Park.*

Margaret Funderburg

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Date September 25, 20
Pay to the order of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
$ 25,000 00
Twenty-Five thousand
00/100 Dollars

Margaret Funderburg

▲ *PHS, the People's Emergency Center, and the Mural Arts Program, with funding from the Bank of America Foundation and the William Penn Foundation, partnered this fall to improve sections of* **LANCASTER AVENUE**. *The roadway, popular with Conestoga wagons in 1796, is equally traveled by Philadelphians of today. On September 25, neighbors and project partners gathered to dedicate the new mural and celebrate the extensive tree plantings and prunings.*

From left to right: Dan Fitzpatrick, Pennsylvania Bank of America; J. Blaine Bonham Jr., PHS; Chaka Fattah, U.S. House of Representatives; Jannie Blackwell, City Council.

City Gardening Series

Generously supported through a collaborative partnership with Chanticleer ... A Pleasure Garden, *in Wayne, PA*

Tips and Tricks for Growing African Violets
Saturday, November 4, 1:30 – 2:30 pm
Roxborough Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia, 6245 Ridge Avenue
Environmental educator Lori Hayes shares the necessary conditions for growing beautiful African violets.

Tropical Plants Indoors
Wednesday, November 29, 7 – 8 pm
Andorra Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia, 705 East Cathedral Road
Horticulturist Mona Gold provides information and ideas to successfully care for and grow tropical plants indoors.

Holiday Houseplants
Saturday, December 9, 1 – 2 pm
Joseph Coleman Regional Library, 68 W. Chelten Avenue
With the approach of the holidays, brightly colored plants add a festive atmosphere to the home. At this workshop, learn proper plant care for the winter months.

Chanticleer

2006 City Gardens Contest Winners • 2006 City Gardens

Individual Categories

Individual Children's Gardens
First Place
Carina & Aimon Flaherty

Second Place
Ashley Siani Ortiz

Individual Combination Vegetable/Flower Gardens
First Place
Diane Kunze & John Neugebauer
Toney Lucas
Debbie Rhoe
Frank Salvo

Second Place
Gretjen Clausing
Clyde E. Jacobs
J. D. Paternoster
Noemi Rodriguez

Third Place
Elvira Gibson
Ann Howlett
Edward & Mable Parker
Jean Reed
Mina Simon

Individual Container Gardens
Includes balconies, patios, decks, and rooftops
First Place
Jacqueline M. Alston-Morse
Craig Bailey
Alfred Rizzio
Tina & Randy Roberts

Second Place
Elaine Grossman & Janet Mason
Betty Herring
Sheila Kessler
Mary Newman
Jane W. Swartz

Third Place
Hester R. Beckman
Elena Savelli
Les Sharpless
Reuben Wade & Janice Smith

Honorable Mention
Zelma Gorham
Diane Jones-Roseman
Lynne Luttrell

Individual Flower Gardens
First Place
Andrew A. Borek
Ivey Galitan
Charlie Heiser
William Hughes
Renaldo James
David S. Ludlum
Ted Newbold & Helen Cunningham
Patricia Powers-Peteraf
Nelson Shores
James Stanley
Rosemary Tilli
Jennifer Zarro & Jeremy Frank

Second Place
Alfred Bilstein
Iris Brown
Nancy J. Brown
Gail Chapman
Deanna Cheung & Melissa Parker
Martha Coonley
Howard & Fred Edelstein
Victoria H. Fox
Lise Funderburg
Bernadette Parisi
George E. Price
Jeanette H. Russell
Marlene Villaire
Mary Yee

Third Place
Stacey Archer
Bruce Benedon
Maria Delgado
Elisabeth Diaz
Thomas & Suzanne Duffy
Robert Duggan
Jim Hart
Lisa, Kevin & Latisha Higgins
Sheila & Alan Hunter
Helen Lusher
Barbara McCabe
Marianne Miller
Bernice & Jeanne Rothwarf
Joan Smalarz
Brian Wengenroth & Mark Raymond

Honorable Mention
Patricia Doran
Josie Goodman
Vanesse Lloyd-Sgambati
Joan McPeak
Myles & Linda Pettengill
Elizabeth A. Plepis
Donald Tester

Individual Vegetable Gardens
First Place
Lawrence King
Ernest Meyer
Michael Pavuk

Second Place
John Caniz
Fred Indictor
Eva Sanders
Bob Todd

Third Place
Domenico Scicchitano

Honorable Mention
James C. Garvey

Community Categories

Community Children's Gardens
First Place
Blaine School—Strawberry Mansion
Environmental Learning Center

Second Place
University City High School/
VNI Garden
5537 Baltimore Avenue

Third Place
Sulzberger Middle School

The Stillman Street Garden

Pete Prown

Contest Winners • 2006 City Gardens Contest Winners

Honorable Mention
St. Paul's Church

Combination Vegetable/Flower Gardens
First Place
Las Parcelas
Villa Africana Colobo
Bel Arbor Community Garden
Fitzwater 2000 Community Garden
Schuylkill River Park Community Garden

Second Place
55th & Baltimore Avenue
Southwark/Queen Village
Ella Francis Garden
Pulaski-Zeralda Community Garden
Roots Community Garden
Pemberton Garden
Sloan Street Community Garden
The Spring Gardens

Third Place
Aspen Farms
Garden R.U.N.
South Street Community Garden
Holly Street Neighbors Community Garden
Awbury Arboretum Community Garden

Honorable Mention
1033-37 6th Street
5342 W. Berks Street
4126-30 Mantua Avenue

Eugene E. Smith Memorial Award
Holly Street Neighbors Community Garden

Community Flower Gardens
Includes business gardens and gateways
First Place
Society Hill Towers Gardens
Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corp./7100–7200 Ogontz
Mayfair CDC/ 7216–18 Frankford Avenue
Hands-On Garden of Associated Services for the Blind
Stillman Street Garden

Second Place
Eichler & Moffly Realtors
Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corp./Washington Lane & Ogontz

Pete Prown

Lynne Luttrell's Backyard Garden

1200 S. Broad Street
The Harmony Garden
Triangle Garden

Third Place
Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corp./Haines & Ogontz
The Gas Station Garden
4th and Arch Streets

Honorable Mention
1150 S. 13th Street
Anna Maria Vona

Community Garden Blocks
First Place
2400 Block of Olive Street

Second Place
500 Block of Spruce Street

Third Place
1500 Block E. Berks Street
1700 Block of Edgley Street

The Greenest Blocks in Town
First Place
7900 Block of Gilbert Street

Second Place
4600 Block of Hazel Avenue

Third Place
2100 Block of Saint James Place

Honorable Mention
6200 Block of Ellsworth Street

Community Parks
First Place
Friends of Cloverly Park
Friends of Bardascino Park

Second Place
Friends of Campbell Square Park
Paolone Park

Third Place
Friends of Wissinoming Park
Friends of Powers Park

Honorable Mention
Wissahickon Neighbors Woodland

Community Vegetable Gardens
First Place
Glenwood Green Acres
15th & Butler Streets
The Southerners

Second Place
1933-43 N. 31st Street

178th Philadelphia Flower Show

March 4 – 11, 2007

LEGENDS of IRELAND

Although it's still many months away, the 2007 Flower Show is shaping up to be one of the best yet. This March, prepare to embark on a journey to the land known as Tir-Na-nOg, the "Land of the Young." There, the leaves are always green, the flowers bloom all year long, and wonder awaits at every turn.

Generating early buzz is this year's central feature, including the Celtic Knot Garden, where intricate plantings of colorful perennials rise from the mist. Ahead on the horizon lies the Castle of the Emerald Kingdom, a blooming mosaic of color and fragrance whose courtyard celebrates the music, art, and dance of old Eire.

So mark your calendar now, and join us at the Pennsylvania Convention Center for Legends of Ireland! Go to *www.theflowershow.com* to plan your visit today.

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The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

"Legends of Ireland" Comes to Philadelphia

March 4 – 11, 2007

Returning visitors are an essential component of the Philadelphia Flower Show's continuing success. For many, the annual March outing is a tradition met with eager anticipation. Regulars get a kick out of meeting up with familiar faces and seeing the latest creations from their favorite exhibitors. And while the Show staff strives to preserve time-tested classics, they also enjoy devising new attractions that get people buzzing.

Midge Ingersoll

Artist's rendering of the central exhibit of the 2007 Flower Show.

This year, for the "Legends of Ireland" theme, Show design director Sam Lemheney and his team have pulled out all the stops. The main garden display (the series of exhibits in the center aisle near the entrance) explores several Irish influences, both natural and formal, ancient and contemporary. This year's multifaceted displays will show Ireland in an artful and traditional light.

Upon arrival, visitors will first behold the **Living Wall**. According to Sam, this entryway is meant as a "portal" that will take visitors from everyday life into a world full of vivid colors and lush flora. Gnarled roots, cascading ivy, and knotted plant designs will provide an air of rustic beauty and fantasy.

Beyond the wall will stand the enchanted **Ealain Wood**, a combination of towering "trees" ascending to the Convention Center rafters and real specimens, including linden and smoke trees. But it's the hundreds of daffodils that may leave the most lasting impression. Several uncommon varieties will be represented, all with origins in Ireland.

The last leg of the journey will bring visitors to the **Knot Garden** and the **Castle of the Emerald Kingdom**. Rising high in the center of the regal garden will be a spectacular water harp surrounded by four large-scale floral displays of iconic Irish images. Noting the intricacy of the garden and its surroundings, Sam says, "Celtic knot work can be seen throughout Ireland. It is an amazingly precise and complex art form that I couldn't wait to emulate."

The Irish influence is surely contagious, and many of the Show exhibitors are putting their own spin on the "Legends" theme. New to the exhibit floor is Celtic Garden Imports, which has previously had a booth in the Marketplace. The Men's Garden Club and Robertson's Flowers are among the other presenters embracing their inner-Irish.

In the neighboring "It's Your Garden" section (located in Hall B), visitors will be dazzled by horticultural, educational, and artistic presentations. Design entries will include terraces, containers, jewelry, and other creations for judging. This year's new categories, hanging baskets and decorative hats, are sure to produce some inventive arrangements.

Sam says, "Whether it's your first or 40th visit to the Flower Show, I guarantee you'll pick up some practical ideas for your garden and will leave smiling. 'Legends of Ireland' will be unforgettable."

Philadelphia Flower Show
March 4–11, 2007

Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA

Advance Tickets:
Adults: $22 • Children 2 – 12: $12
Group tickets (20 or more): $21.50

General Admission at the Show:
Adults: $28 on Opening Sunday (March 5), $26 on weekends and $22 on weekdays
Children 2 – 12: $13 (good any day)

For more information, please visit ***www.theflowershow.com*** or call 215-988-8899 (recorded information).

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

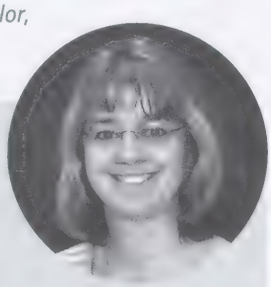
Daniel Moise

The Philadelphia Green parks team. From left to right: Joan Reilly, Takkeem Morgan, Paul Bonfanti, Kim Massare, C.R. Robinson, Julie Woodard, Leslie Henderson, and Claire Baker.

On December 7, PHS and its Philadelphia Green parks project received the "decade of achievement" award from the Philadelphia Department of Recreation (PDR). To commemorate the occasion PDR surprised the recipients with an engraved crystal vase. Philadelphia Green director Joan Reilly says, "I'm very proud of the parks team and the landscape architects who support the projects. It's their commitment, talent, and plain hard work that earned us this wonderful acknowledgment."

Also deserving of praise are the 2006 Volunteers of the Year. These individuals, each representing a Philadelphia park group, displayed uncommon dedication in their efforts to preserve their neighborhood's treasure.

The Parks Revitalization Project "Volunteers of the Year": Bill Arrowood, Lois Arthur, Edward Colfer, Marion Davis, Mildred Dorsey, Susan Finch, Mickey Flaville, Regina Gorzkowski-Rossi, Nicole Hostettler, Brian O'Neill, Barbara Perry, Lois Pharr, Rich Rapp, Rachel Reynolds, Myrna Roach, Pablo Rodriguez, Irene Russell, Francine Rozich, Dottie Smith, Carol Smythe, Tyrone Taylor, and Ervin Warfield.



In the Spotlight: Pam Snyder

The W.B. Saul High School, located in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia, is like almost every school in the country: students lug overstuffed backpacks, lockers line crowded hallways, and a herd of sheep graze in pastures by the baseball field.

Okay, so maybe Saul *isn't* your average school. As the largest agricultural high school in America, students take classes in landscaping, animal science, and greenhouse management in addition to math, history, and other standard fare.

One of the many teachers who help the unique institution to flourish is Pam Snyder. An educator for 27 years, Pam currently leads classes in horticulture and retail floristry. "I've enjoyed gardening and botany my entire life," the Pittsburgh native says, "so it's great fun to share that passion with young people."

Pam firmly believes in the importance of environmental education, particularly in urban areas where access to the natural world is limited. What's more, she recognizes the career opportunities that can arise from such exposure. "Many of my students have gone on to work for Fairmount Park, or do landscaping, or start their own flower shop," she says.

In her first year as a teacher, Pam became involved with PHS's Kids Grow Expo (then known as the Junior Flower Show) and has played a major role in the event ever since. In the classroom, Pam helps her students nurture and groom their plants and horticultural creations for the lighthearted competition. Outside school, she assists in planning the event, which includes organizing the different categories of exhibits and arranging activities for the participants—who range from preschoolers to high school seniors.

After years of being a part of the Expo committee, Pam will serve as chair for the 2007 event in April. As it has for the past three years, the Expo will be held at the campus of Temple University Ambler as part of its annual EarthFest.

Pam is also a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. Given her background, she hopes to foster the urban greening program's youth and education initiatives, such as having area high school students volunteer at community gardens.

With only a few months to go, Pam is eagerly awaiting the upcoming Kids Grow Expo. She says, "Each year I get a thrill watching my students rush over to their entries to see the ribbon they won. They're so proud of themselves, and, as their teacher, I'm proud of them. It's wonderful."

Margaret Fingerhut

City Harvest Enters its Second Year

Planting seeds of potential—that's how Leon King Jr., commissioner of the Philadelphia Prison System, described the empowering effect of Philadelphia Green's City Harvest program. Now in its second year, the partnership between Philadelphia Green, the Self Help and Resource Exchange (SHARE), community gardeners, and the Philadelphia Prison System is continuing to serve the city by providing fresh produce to those in need, while providing inmates with useful skills for when they reenter society.

Margaret Funderburg

Philadelphia Green's Lisa Mosca (left) works with inmates of the Philadelphia Prison System.

Made possible by a grant from The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation, City Harvest has inmates grow seedlings for community gardeners who in turn grow the vegetables for food cupboards. So far 30 inmates have worked in the Prison System's newly refurbished "Roots to Reentry" garden, and 21 community gardens have designated space for the resulting seedlings to ripen to maturity. To date more than 6,200 pounds of food has been harvested and distributed to 19 area food cupboards through SHARE.

City Harvest is also committed to nutrition education and has hosted 21 workshops and tastings for the inmates, gardeners, and food cupboard volunteers and recipients. In all, 260 individuals have enjoyed the fruits of their labor in new and creative ways. The classes also feature information regarding safe food handling, the benefits of a healthy diet, and quick and nutritious recipes.

A nutrition workshop at the Hansberry garden.

Margaret Funderburg

At the one-year anniversary celebration of the program, held in mid-October at the prison's ASD Correctional Unit, the commissioner said, "You hear about all the money and time being spent on reducing crime and violence. What people often overlook is programs like this that work to the same aim by making inmates valuable members of society and providing them with a new skill for when they return to their lives."

One of the inmates who also spoke at the gathering added, "I thought we would just plant some flowers, but boy was I wrong. We kept busy and learned a lot that we can teach to our children and communities."

Of course the inmates aren't the only ones to benefit from the program. As Steveanna Wynn, executive director of SHARE, explained, one in every nine Philadelphians is food insecure*, meaning they lack access to enough food to fully meet basic needs. As a result, 10,000 families a week depend on food cupboards for nourishment, thus making programs like City Harvest invaluable. She said, "So many people working toward the same aim has produced something magnificent. City Harvest provides fresh produce to those who would otherwise go without."

SHARE volunteer Sadie Glover, an employee of the Courtyard Apartment for seniors, can verify Steveanna's claim: she delivers City Harvest vegetables to residents and witnesses how much they appreciate fresh, nutritious food. Some residents, Sadie said, eagerly watch out their windows awaiting her arrival.

Plans are already in the works for the program's second growing season. New community gardens have been added to the roster, and a new group of inmates has assembled. In addition, the Philadelphia Green staff is preparing more workshops to teach the prison participants about nutrition, food preservation, and organic gardening techniques.

City Harvest's impact on the inmates is perhaps best summed up by Louise Mockaitis. Louise is a volunteer at the Spring Gardens who helps tend what eventually becomes the donated produce. Paraphrasing an old adage she said, "Give a man a fish, and he has a meal. Teach a man to fish and he has meals for life—that's what City Harvest is all about."

**Definition courtesy of the Food Research and Action Center. Visit* www.frac.org.

City Gardening Series

Generously supported through a collaborative partnership with Chanticleer ... A Pleasure Garden, *in Wayne, PA*

Fine-Tuning Your Garden Design
Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 – 8:30 pm
Chestnut Hill Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia, 8711 Germantown Avenue

Award-winning urban garden designer Toni Ann Flanigan provides solutions to the aspects of garden design that give you headaches.

Starting Seeds Indoors
Wednesday, February 7, 6 – 7 pm
Spruce Hill Community Center
257 S. 45th Street

Get a jump on spring and learn how to successfully start plants from seed.

Container Gardening
Monday, February 12, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Independence Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia, 18 S. 7th Street

Horticultural educator Janet Carter shows how to have an attractive container garden using a variety of plants.

Designing Containers for the Small Garden
Monday, March 26, 6–7 pm
Philadelphia City Institute
1905 Locust Street

Garden writer and educator Eva Monheim gives tips for constructing container gardens for indoor and outdoor plants.

Herbs 101
Wednesday, March 28, 7 – 8 pm
Lovett Memorial Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia, 6945 Germantown Avenue

Environmental educator Charlotte Kidd discusses what every gardener should know about growing, caring for, and using herbs.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

PHS Hosts Mayoral Forum at Flower Show

Second to the Philadelphia Flower Show, nothing attracts a crowd like a frank and open political discussion. On the evening of March 5, five mayoral candidates addressed a standing-room-only crowd at the Pennsylvania Convention Center for PHS's Green City Strategy Mayoral Candidates' Forum.

Daniel Moise

PHS president Jane Pepper (center) and PHS excutive vice president J. Blaine Bonham Jr. (far right) join the candidates on stage.

The event, held in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Philadelphia Parks Alliance, drew more than 1,000 people to hear the candidates comment on critical matters such as protecting open space, restoring parks, and investing in neighborhood revitalization.

Forum moderator Zach Stalberg addresses the audience.

"The forum was a wonderful extension of the Flower Show and heightened the importance of greening our city all year, every year," PHS president Jane Pepper says. "I was impressed by the audience's questions. It was a passionate group who understands the role of greening in the future of Philadelphia."

The forum included five Democratic mayoral candidates: Congressman Bob Brady, State Representative Dwight Evans, Congressman Chaka Fattah, businessman Tom Knox, and former City Councilman Michael Nutter. Zach Stalberg, president of the political watchdog group Committee of Seventy, moderated the proceedings.

While the five men offered differing tacks, each agreed that protecting the city's natural resources is vital for a sustainable Philadelphia. PHS will plant a tree in honor of each of the candidates, a gesture to symbolize their commitment to greening. "Regardless of who is elected mayor, all of them are leaders. I hope they are mindful of the importance of greening, whichever direction their respective careers take them," Jane says.

PHS executive vice president J. Blaine Bonham Jr. adds, "With Philadelphia poised to embrace continued growth, it is crucial that Philadelphia's next mayor commits to investing in The Green City Strategy, supporting existing programs, and devising new green-friendly policies."

For Philadelphia residents who were unable to attend the forum, questions for the candidates can be sent via PHS by emailing *forum@pennhort.org.*

– Laura Beitman

Tree-mendous Rebate

This spring, help restore the region's tree canopy by getting involved with TreeVitalize. Pennsylvania residents who purchase a tree from any nursery and plant it in Southeastern Pennsylvania are eligible for a rebate of 25 percent of the cost of the tree, up to $25. Visit *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org* for the rebate form.

Get Ready for Spring Into Your Park '07

The eighth annual Spring Into Your Park event is right around the corner. On Saturday, April 21, volunteers from across the city will devote the morning to making their corner of Philadelphia a little bit greener. The event is organized by the Parks Revitalization Project, a partnership of Philadelphia Green, the Fairmount Park Commission, and the Philadelphia Department of Recreation.

Spring Into Your Park (SIYP) brings hundreds of volunteers together to revitalize neighborhood parks. Last year, despite gray skies and chilly rain, more than 500 volunteers from 40 park groups participated, collecting 643 bags of trash and planting 1,168 annuals.

SIYP 2006 was a catalyst for change for Dickenson Square Park, based in the Pennsport neighborhood. Friends of Dickenson Square Park volunteer Ashley Tobin says, "The best part about last year's event is the momentum it created. We've started weekly cleanups and have made a considerable improvement to the park; longtime residents say it has never looked so good."

Margaret Funderburg

SIYP 2006

Like last year, the 2007 SIYP will coincide with the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup—a statewide effort by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to remove litter and trash from Pennsylvania's roadways, parks, forests, riverbanks, neighborhoods, and open spaces. "It's exciting and encouraging that our volunteer work on April 21 will happen at the same time as this large-scale endeavor," says Kim Massare, Philadelphia Green parks network coordinator.

Philadelphia Green is currently seeking volunteers to participate in the 2007 SIYP. Green thumbs are not required. Those interested can call 215-988-1611 or email *parks@pennhort.org* to get connected to the SIYP event happening in their neighborhood. Funding is provided by the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative.

In Memory: Philip McCullough

Philip McCullough, a landscape contractor who worked on many Philadelphia Green projects over the past six years, died suddenly in an accident on January 25, 2007. His death greatly saddened the many Philadelphia Green staff members who knew him and worked alongside him.

One of the first contractors to work on Philadelphia Green's "clean and green" vacant land projects in the American Street Empowerment Zone, Phil continued to work with Philadelphia Green for the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative. Phil's company, Philip H. McCullough Inc., was among a group of dedicated contractors who transformed thousands of blighted vacant lots citywide into park-like settings. While those who work on these projects often encounter difficult conditions, Phil and his workers were always very conscientious in creating new green spaces that make neighborhoods safer, healthier, and more livable.

The McCullough crew worked on many other projects with Philadelphia Green: making improvements to neighborhood parks and community gardens, planting hundreds of street trees, and installing special projects such as the Belmont Garden at 40th Street and Lancaster Avenue.

Phil (second from right) leads a landscaping workshop.

Phil, who leaves behind a wife and two children, will be remembered not only for the impact of his work, but also for his calm demeanor and sense of humor. He was never too busy to show a genuine interest in his friends and colleagues and loved the thrill of tackling new challenges. Generous with his time and experience, he was always willing to lead training sessions for community organizations that were interested in learning new landscaping skills. In short, Phil McCullough was dedicated to doing his very best.

— Bob Grossmann, Philadelphia Green Associate Director

City Gardening Series

City Gardening Series is generously supported through a collaborative partnership with **Chanticleer…A Pleasure Garden**, in Wayne, PA. These workshops are free and open to the public (unless otherwise noted). For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*.

The Fragrant Garden
Saturday, April 7, 2 – 3 pm
Walnut West Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia (FLP)
201 S. 40th Street
Horticultural therapist Beverly Agard suggests scented blossoms and foliage for a sweetly-perfumed garden.

Planning the Front Yard Garden
Monday, April 9, 6 – 7 pm
Spruce Hill Community Center
257 S. 45th Street
Horticulture instructor Eva Monheim shares tips to make your garden appeal to passersby. Space is limited.

Environmentally Friendly Gardens
Wednesday, April 11, 7 – 8 pm
Falls of Schuylkill Branch, FLP
3501 Midvale Avenue
Garden writer and designer Charlotte Kidd discusses how to make eco-friendly choices about plants and garden products.

Jumpstart the Summer Garden
Monday, April 16, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Holmesburg Branch, FLP
7810 Frankford Avenue
Master gardener Robin Potter demonstrates how to get a start on summer through planting and preparation.

Designing the Garden with Native Plants
Saturday, April 21, 10 am – 12 pm
Bartram's Gardens
54th St. & Lindbergh Boulevard
Eva Monheim shows how to incorporate natives into the landscape while increasing yearlong interest. A tour of the garden follows.

The Low Maintenance Garden
Monday, April 30, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Wadsworth Branch, FLP
1500 Wadsworth Avenue
Charlotte Kidd demonstrates how to create a garden that looks good without demanding too much from the gardener.

Spring Tree Walk
Wednesday, May 2, 6 – 7:30 pm
Horticultural Center of Fairmount Park
Belmont Ave. & North Horticultural Drive
Join Fairmount Park's Lori Hayes on a guided tour of the diverse trees surrounding the Horticulture Center.

Fragrance and the Garden
Saturday, May 5, 2:30 – 3:30 pm
Oak Lane Branch, FLP
6614 N. 12th Street
Eva Monheim shows wonderful plants for filling your garden with fragrance.

Creating Mixed Garden Borders
Monday, May 7, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
West Oak Lane Branch, FLP
2000 Washington Lane
Lori Hayes teaches design ideas for planning a mixed border, including color combinations, foliage texture and soil preparation.

All about Annuals
Wednesday, May 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Tacony Branch, FLP
6742 Torresdale Avenue
Charlotte Kidd leads this workshop demonstrating planting techniques for annuals. Please come prepared to help with the planting.

Tips for Great-Looking Container Gardens
Saturday, May 12, 2 – 3 pm
Nicetown Branch, FLP
3720 N. Broad Street
Janet Carter demonstrates how the smallest patio or porch can boast a container garden of vegetables or flowers.

Growing Herbs in the Home Garden
Monday, May 14, 7 – 8 pm
Northeast Regional Branch, FLP
2228 Cottman Avenue
Penn State Extension agent Doris Stahl offers info on the history, cultivation, harvesting, and uses of herbs.

Caring for Flowering Houseplants
Wednesday, May 16, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Greater Olney Branch, FLP
5501 N. 5th Street
Horticultural therapist Mona Gold shares tips for choosing flowering houseplants and getting the most enjoyment from them.

Chanticleer through the Seasons: Spring
Thursday, May 17, 4:30 – 9 pm
Join us for an evening at Chanticleer, a 32-acre garden of ever-changing colors and textures. Buses leave PHS, 100 North 20th St., at 4:30 pm sharp and return by 9 pm. Bring a light supper. Snacks and refreshments are supplied. Registration and a $5 fee are required by May 10.

Containers in Small Spaces
Monday, May 21, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Ogontz Branch, FLP
6017 Ogontz Avenue
Environmental educator Lori Hayes teaches the basics of plant selection, design, watering and fertilizing for containers.

Creating Colorful Container Gardens
Saturday, June 2, 10 – 11:30 am
Campbell Square Community Park
2500 block of East Allegheny Avenue
Community gardener Janet Carter shows creative ideas for versatile and portable containers.

Growing Plants in Challenging Places
Wednesday, June 20, 7 – 8 pm
Foxchase Branch, FLP
501 Rhawn Street
The north side of a building is a challenging garden space. Come learn the best techniques for garden success in this and similar places.

In Search of Interns

The Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful internship program offers college students an exciting opportunity to work with urban communities on the planning and implementation of neighborhood enhancement projects. The focus of each project is decided by community partners. Past years' efforts have included vacant land restoration, green space projects, mural installations, and environmental education programs.

Following a three-day training workshop hosted and conducted by Philadelphia Green, the 11-week summer internship program will place 12 teams of interns at different project sites throughout Pennsylvania. The teams will be made up of two to three students from a variety of academic disciplines. Participating students are paid $2,000 for the summer and housing will be provided at no cost to interns who need it.

Internships are competitive. The program selects talented students from across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. For more information, call program coordinator Jesse Hunting at 717-856-9476.

2006 intern Stasya works with a neighborhood child at a garden site.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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Discover the City Gardening Series

East Oak Lane resident Alex Pollack thought he had been involved with everything PHS has to offer. He was a Tree Tender. He volunteered at the Flower Show. He even helped out at the Kids Grow Expo. So when PHS launched the **City Gardening Series** in 2002, Alex knew he had to give it a try.

Marilyn Reynolds

Patricia Schrieber, PHS community education manager, leads a tour of Valentine Gardens.

The City Gardening Series offers free lectures, tours, and demonstrations designed for people who garden in small spaces. *Chanticleer … a pleasure garden* in Wayne, PA, generously supports the series, which has become integral to PHS's outreach efforts.

"We now offer about 80 classes a year, and each one is well attended," says Marilyn Reynolds, PHS project coordinator. "People recognize that the series is an accessible and affordable way to enhance their gardening knowledge."

The Free Library of Philadelphia co-hosts the series, offering evening classes at neighborhood branches citywide. Topics include growing cacti, designing hanging baskets, container gardening, and starting seeds, to name just a few.

Men and women with extensive horticultural training lead the classes. Marilyn says, "Our roster of presenters includes garden writers, landscape architects, and horticulturists. They are skilled speakers who know how to share their knowledge with amateurs."

In addition to lectures and demonstrations, there are also tours of popular local gardens. Throngs of eager people board chartered buses for daytrips to Triple Oaks Nursery and Herb Farm, Awbury Arboretum, Pennsbury Manor, and, of course, Chanticleer.

Anne Sims, visitor services manager at Chanticleer, says, "It's always great having the City Gardening Series folks out to Chanticleer, they are an engaging and animated group. On their visits, we like to pass on tips that can be applied to their home gardens."

Each session of the series ends with a raffle for items related to the day's topic. The prizes often include books, tools, and plants.

On average, 30 people attend each event. Some show up occasionally, while others wouldn't dream of missing a single meeting. These individuals are affectionately known as "the regulars."

Unsurprisingly, Alex Pollack has become a "regular." He says, "What keeps me coming back is the excellence of the speakers. They know their stuff, and I always leave having learned something new."

For Marilyn, her favorite aspect of the series is how it brings people together: "I've witnessed friendships form among people from all walks of life. They share tips and information and even visit one another's gardens."

Upcoming City Gardening Series events are listed on page 3.

Summer in the Neighborhood

Summer is in full-swing, so check out the great events scheduled for parks across the city. Concerts, farmers' markets, and neighborhood-pride celebrations are among the **Summer in the Neighborhood** festivities compiled by PHS. View the list of events at *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org.*

Flip to the back page to learn more about the *Green Scene* Photo Contest.

PHS Welcomes the Philly Fellows

For the past year Philadelphia Green has benefited from the time and talents of Temple University graduate Julie Woodard. Julie is one of 15 young people participating in the inaugural run of Philly Fellows, a year-long fellowship program that links recent graduates of Philadelphia-area colleges to nonprofits that align with their interests. In addition to employment, the fellowship offers housing, benefits, and leadership development opportunities.

Philly Fellows boasts the two-part mission of encouraging young adults to remain in Philadelphia and empowering the city's cultural, educational, and social service organizations. "My eyes have been opened to the opportunities that Philadelphia has for people my age," Julie says. "I feel as though I'm part of something important."

"My eyes have been opened to the opportunities Philadelphia has for people my age"

Julie Woodard

Through her work with Philadelphia Green, Julie coordinated and executed community tree plantings, provided logistical support to park events, and much more. Philadelphia Green program manager Claire Baker says, "Julie was a magnificent addition to the team. We accomplished a great deal thanks to her involvement."

While Julie's energy and enthusiasm will be missed as she embarks on the next stage of her career, Philadelphia Green welcomes its 2007-2008 Philly Fellow, Hannah Shulman. A graduate of Haverford College, Hannah will assist with the City Harvest urban agriculture program. More information on the Philly Fellows program can be found at *www.phillyfellows.org*.

Empress Trees Inspire Art

Salvaged wood from Logan Square's recently replaced Empress trees (*Paulownia tomentosa*) has been transformed into a sculpture. Temporarily housed in the Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia, Jordan Griska's *Swann* pays tribute to the city's history of traditional boat building.

Margaret Funderburg

In the Spotlight: Delores Mangum

One day, when Delores Mangum glanced out the window of her daughter's Olney home, she was puzzled by what she saw across the street in Fisher Park. From her vantage point she could see a small group of people working on a project of some sort, but she couldn't figure out what it was.

"It appeared as though they were building a corral for cattle or something," Delores says, "but I knew that couldn't be right."

So, being an outgoing person, she didn't hesitate to march over and get the scoop. "A young lady told me they were building a community garden, and that's all I needed to hear. Right then I asked if I could have a plot," she says. Fortunately, there was an opening, and with that Delores and her family became founding members of the Roots Community Garden.

Of course having a garden plot and knowing what to do with it are two different things. And even though she had extensive training in floral design, Delores knew little about starting a garden from scratch. "That's how I became involved with PHS's Garden Tenders course," she says, "and I instantly loved it."

Upon completion of the course, Delores had what she needed to make her garden grow, but she was still hungry for knowledge. Soon she became a Tree Tender for West and East Oak Lane, started volunteering at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and completed the rigorous Penn State Master Gardener program.

Most recently, Delores has become a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. In this capacity she hopes to promote the importance of open space planning and the effects today's decisions will have on future generations. "There's so much you can do with PHS that allows you to get your hands dirty and make a difference," she says. "In fact, I made a list so I can keep track of all the things I want to try!"

PG News 2007 (3) summer

Salvaged wood from Logan Square's recently replaced Empress trees (*Paulownia tomentosa)* has been transformed into a sculpture. Temporarily housed in the Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia, *Swann* pays tribute to the city's history of traditional boat building.

The sculpture is the result of a Four Seasons-sponsored competition to create a commemorative object from the historic wood. Lower Merion native Jordan Griska was selected to execute his winning design. Griska is a third year student at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and also pursues a bachelor of fine arts degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Logan Circle is the hotel's front yard," says Four Seasons Hotel general manager Harry Gorstayn. "The new landscaping is exceptional, but we wanted to acknowledge and bring inside a bit of the history that's so vital to the location."

Planting Trees in Lower Kensington

On March 24 the Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Committee (KSNAC) held a successful bare-root tree planting involving more than 100 volunteers. An impressive 65 trees were planted throughout the neighborhood in just one day.

The event required months of preparation, including the mid-winter removal of large concrete slabs from the planting sites. Fortunately there was great interest among the residents, and enthusiasm continued to build as the big day drew near.

Assisting the neighbors were volunteers from Circle of Hope, Project Rainbow, and Temple University's Pi Lambda Phi fraternity. Tree Tenders from across the region also came out to lend a hand.

"It was a very ambitious undertaking, but the results speak for themselves," says Mindy Maslin, a project manager for PHS.

Tree Tender graduate and KSNAC greening committee chair Lisa Maiello adds, "The trees are small now, but you can imagine the future and the difference they'll make in our neighborhood.

Sarah Gearhart

Volunteers pose with the large tree stump they unearthed.

City Gardening Series

The City Gardening Series is supported through a collaborative partnership with **Chanticleer...A Pleasure Garden** in Wayne, PA. These events are free and open to the public (unless otherwise noted). For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*.

Pots in the Garden
Wednesday, July 11, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Rodriquez Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia (FLP)
600 W. Girard Avenue

Growing Houseplants: A Fun Activity with Kids
Wednesday, July 18, 11 am – 12 pm
Widener Branch, FLP
2808 W. Lehigh Avenue

Chanticleer through the Seasons – Summer
Thursday, July 19, 4:30 – 9 pm
Buses will leave 100 North 20th Street at 4:30 pm *sharp*, returning by 9 pm.
Please bring a light supper; snacks and refreshments will be supplied.
Registration and a $5 fee are required.
To register, call 215-988-8872 by July 12.

Window Boxes and Other Containers
Monday, July 23, 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Marrero Branch, FLP
601 W. Lehigh Avenue

Environmentally Friendly Gardening
Wednesday, July 25, 6 – 7 pm
Santore Branch, FLP
932 S. 7th Street

The Summer Vegetable Garden
Saturday, July 28, 10 – 11 am
53rd & Warrington Community Garden
1145-47 S. 53rd Street

Herbs 101
Monday, July 30, 6 – 7 pm
South Philadelphia Branch, FLP
1700 S. Broad Street

Caring for Flowering Houseplants
Monday, August 13, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Whitman Branch, FLP
200 Snyder Avenue

Herbs for the Home Garden
Wednesday, August 15, 6 – 7 pm
Philadelphia City Institute, FLP
1905 Locust Street

Bus trip to Triple Oaks Nursery and Herb Farm in Franklinville, NJ
Thursday, August 16, 9 am – 3 pm
Buses will leave 100 North 20th Street at 9 am *sharp*, returning by 3 pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
Registration and a $10 fee are required.
To register, call 215-988-8872 by August 9.

Cooking with Herbs
Saturday, August 25, 10 – 11:30 am
Awbury Garden Club, Awbury Arboretum
One Awbury Road (on Chew Avenue between Washington Lane and Haines Street)

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

Photos by Margaret Funderburg

Schoolchildren from across the region flocked to Temple University Ambler for the annual EarthFest event, featuring PHS's **KIDS GROW EXPO**. *More than 6,000 youngsters attended the April 20 event.*

▲ *Students show off their plant entries.*

► *The "Junior Flower Show" featured exhibits from students of all ages.*

▲ *A young volunteer makes a big difference at Conshohocken-Windemere Park.*

On April 21, 60 neighborhood parks across Philadelphia were buzzing with activity as 2,000-plus volunteers participated in the 8th annual **SPRING INTO YOUR PARK**. *The outstanding accomplishments of the day include the collection of 2,000 bags of trash and debris and the planting of 2,000 annuals.*

▼ *Volunteers planted 88 trees in parks citywide.*

Join the UC Green Pruning Club!

A PHS Tree Tenders Continuing Education Program

Join fellow Tree Tenders in a summer evening outing with the **UC Green Pruning Club** on Monday, **July 16** from 6:30 to 8 pm, followed by a gab fest and pizza picnic.

UC Green, a community organization in the University City section of West Philadelphia, launched its pruning club four years ago. Using hand tools and on-the-ground pruning techniques, the group makes weekly evening excursions led by newly certified arborists.

In addition to pruning dead and damaged branches, many members of the pruning club have helped **TreeVitalize** plant nearly 1,000 trees in University City. PHS is a lead partner in TreeVitalize, a program of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that aims to restore the region's tree cover.

On July 16, meet in front of Colonial Pizza at 43rd and Pine Street; the pruning will occur in this general locale.

Bring gloves and any hand-held pruning tools (bypass pruners, loppers, folding saws, etc.) you might have; additional tools may also be available. Wear sensible shoes and clothing.

Please RSVP by Friday, July 13 to *wharris@ucgreen.org*. To learn more about UC Green, visit *www.ucgreen.org*.

PHS celebrated its largest **CITY HALL IN BLOOM** *event on May 17 with the assistance and sponsorship of KPMG LLP. PHS and Fairmount Park staff led 300 KPMG employees and fourth graders from Bache-Martin School in the planting of more than 6,600 flowering plants.*

◀ *Volunteers at Love Park enjoyed a stunning view as they worked.*

▶ *KPMG employees planted annuals in garden beds surrounding City Hall.*

▶ *The Benjamin Franklin Parkway looks fantastic thanks to City Hall in Bloom.*

Enter the 2007 Garden Photo Contest!

Enter the *Green Scene* Garden Photo Contest and you could win this **Nikon Coolpix L10 digital camera**, provided by **Ritz Camera**.

We want to see your best **Garden** shots, **Flower** close-ups, and other **Nature** and **Landscape** photos! The contest's judges—all professional photographers and gardeners from the Delaware Valley—will be looking for knock-out images that capture the essence of gardening and the beauty of nature. Winning photos will be published in the January/February 2008 issue of *Green Scene* magazine and on the PHS website.

Photos can be shot in any format, but must be submitted as 4 x 6 or 5 x 7-inch prints with your name and phone/email address on the back. (No submissions by email or on CD will be accepted.) **The deadline for entries is September 15, 2007.**

RITZ CAMERA & IMAGE

For more information, please visit *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org* or email *greenscene@pennhort.org* with questions. Good luck!

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

College Students Participate in Statewide Greening

While many of their classmates were busy at the beach or lounging about the house this summer, 35 intrepid college students dedicated themselves to making a difference. As part of the **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful** internship program, the students devised and implemented greening projects for 13 cities across the commonwealth.

Jesse Hunting

Interns Pam Plumridge and Maddie Ruth stand in the garden they designed and constructed in Elizabethtown, PA.

The internship program was created by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, an alliance of state agencies, nonprofits, and businesses working to prevent litter and encourage community-based greening efforts. Additional support was provided by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society—which hosted extensive training seminars for the fledging landscape architects and urban planners. "The interns were very eager to share their skills but wanted to be great learners as well," says Philadelphia Green senior director Joan Reilly. "That combination produces fantastic results."

All summer long the interns were hard at work, applying lessons from the classroom to real-life situations. They initiated a stunning mural project in Grove City, constructed a pocket park in Irwin, and developed an anti-litter program for the youth of Elizabethtown. The other participating cities were Bradford, Harrisburg, Kennett Square, Meadville, Middletown, Mount Carmel, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, West Reading, and York.

Intern Jerry Butler was stationed in York. A native of Wisconsin (who recently received a master's degree in landscape architecture), Jerry worked with his team on a mural project and streetscape renovations. He says, "I didn't even know York existed a few months ago, but now I feel connected to the town and the people. The work was rewarding and the community was welcoming—I couldn't have spent my summer a better way."

Community involvement was a major component of the program. In fact, residents opened their homes to several of the interns who lived too far to commute. Equally impressive as the greening projects are the close ties that the interns and community members quickly established.

"The interns have made a lasting impression on the town and its residents, engaging everyone from small children to business owners," says Beth Wood Bergman, executive director of the Elizabethtown Economic Development Corporation. "When the summer ended we didn't want them to leave!"

Jesse Hunting coordinates the internship program. He says, "This experience is more than a résumé-builder; it's an opportunity for the students to use their ambition and talents toward helping others."

2007 Fall for Your Park

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, October 13 for **Fall for Your Park**, held this year at Cobbs Creek Park in West Philadelphia. Expect food, fun, and free t-shirts. To volunteer or for more information, please call 215-988-1611 or email *parks@pennhort.org*.

PHS Receives Two Top Environmental Awards

PHS and the City of Philadelphia have received the **Home Depot Foundation's *Award of Excellence for Community Trees***. PHS was lauded for its partnership with the City and with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on TreeVitalize, a multi-year effort spearheaded by DCNR to restore trees in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The award was presented to Mayor John Street, TreeVitalize project director Patrice Carroll, and PHS executive vice president Blaine Bonham on June 23 at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Los Angeles. (For more on TreeVitalize, please visit *www.treevitalize.net.*)

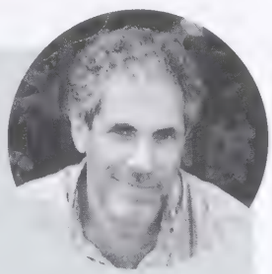
The Home Depot Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, identifies, recognizes, and celebrates the success and benefits of public/private partnerships in developing healthy communities through tree plantings. For more information on Home Depot awards, please visit *www.homedepotfoundation.org.*

In addition, the **Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission** (DVRPC) presented PHS with its ***Regional Environmental Program of the Year Award***. PHS was recognized for the success of its Philadelphia Green program in transforming vacant lots throughout Philadelphia into vibrant green open spaces. The DVRPC annually selects a small group of companies, organizations, and individuals that exemplify the best in corporate decision making, environmental planning, leadership, and commitment to the region. Blaine Bonham accepted the award at the DVRPC Celebration of Regional Excellence Dinner in Philadelphia on June 5.

"It's extremely gratifying to have the work of PHS and its Philadelphia Green program recognized with significant regional and national awards like these," says Blaine. "It helps spread the message that greening is a powerful strategy for transforming the urban environment."

- Jane Carroll

In the Spotlight: Ernie Suskin



From the third story window of his home, Ernie Suskin has a great view of the street trees he planted 20 years ago. Once scrawny little saplings, these trees now surpass the telephone poles, providing much-appreciated shade to the neighbors below.

Thanks to this infusion of green, Ernie's street in the Graduate Hospital neighborhood—also called Anderson Yards—stands out from the others. Ernie takes pride in the change he helped bring about, but acknowledges he couldn't have done it without a little help.

"When I first moved in, the street looked barren and I wanted to do something about it," he says. So with little tree knowledge to his name, Ernie decided to participate in PHS's Tree Tenders training course. It was just what he was looking for. Ernie took what he learned and applied it to making his street greener.

Proud of his accomplishment, Ernie returned to Tree Tenders, only this time as an assistant to instructor Mindy Maslin. Before long he became one of PHS's most reliable volunteers, helping to launch the bare-root tree planting effort and participating in bike tours of the city's oldest and most prominent trees.

Ernie also volunteers at the Philadelphia Flower Show by lending a hand at the Gardener's Studio, which presents free lectures and demonstrations on the Show floor. He says, "After going to the Show as a spectator for so many years it's nice to be a part of the action."

Ernie's fondness for gardening and nature is evident in his business. Fourteen years ago he started Botanical Style, a manufacturer of nature-inspired prints, frames, and decorative items. Having recently acquired property in Germantown to operate his business, Ernie is hoping to raise tree-awareness among his new neighbors.

"There's a great interest in getting more trees in the area. People want to help but don't know how, so I send them over to PHS," he says.

Ernie's enthusiasm extends even further; tree planting is a top priority at his weekend house in Roxborough: "I'm working to restore the woodland area. The problem is I first have to kill a lot of harmful invasive species before I can cultivate the natives."

Recently the roving tree advocate joined the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. Ernie is glad to support the program's many urban greening endeavors, particularly those that involve a large volunteer base. He says, "I really enjoy seeing people from all over the city—a full spectrum of personalities—come together for greening. It's inspirational!"

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

◀ *Participants of the Youth Environmental Stewardship program prepare a garden bed.*

Photos by Margaret Funderburg

▲ *Commuters appreciate lush street-side plantings on Columbus Boulevard courtesy of Philadelphia Green.*

◀ *A gardener at Southwark/ Queen Village Community Garden tends to her vegetable patch.*

City Gardening Series

The City Gardening Series is supported through a collaborative partnership with **Chanticleer…A Pleasure Garden** in Wayne, PA. These events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*.

Chanticleer through the Seasons – Fall
Thursday, September 20, 4:30 – 9 pm
Contact PHS to register by September 13.
$5 fee

Planting for Fall Color
Saturday, September 29, 10 am – 12 pm
Bartram's Garden
54th Street & Lindbergh Blvd.

Bus Trip to Historic Pennsbury Manor
Monday, October 1, 9 am – 2 pm
Contact PHS to register by September 25.
$10 fee

Fall Tree Walk
Wednesday, October 10, 6 – 7:30 pm
Horticulture Center of Fairmount Park
Belmont Avenue and North Horticultural Drive

Arranging Fresh Flowers
Monday, October 15, 7 – 8 pm
Roots Community Garden at Fisher Park
6th & Spencer Streets (top of steps), Spencer Street entrance

Festive Fall Containers
Saturday, October 20, 2 – 3 pm
Wynnefield Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia (FLP)
5345 Overbrook Avenue

Houseplants: Your Indoor Garden
Monday, October 22, 6 – 7 pm
Eastwick Branch, FLP
2851 Island Avenue

Fall is for Planting
Saturday, October 27, 2 – 3 pm
Blanche Nixon/Cobbs Creek Branch, FLP
5800 Cobbs Creek Parkway

Holiday Houseplants
Monday, October 29, 7 – 8 pm
Fox Chase Branch, FLP
501 Rhawn Street

A Philadelphia Green Journey

Philadelphia Green senior director and Eisenhower Fellow Maitreyi Roy recently returned from a two-month tour of Europe's great urban spaces. She has written about her adventures and reflections in her blog, EuroGreen Observations.

Maitreyi says, "My travels in Europe have been a great opportunity to experience many facets of urban life—revealing the value and important role that open space and green infrastructure play in the economic, social, and environmental success of European cities."

Now back at home, Maitreyi is already hard at work—incorporating her experiences into her position with PHS. She says, "I returned to Philadelphia energized by all that I learned. Even more so, I returned with a sense of affirmation for all that we are doing that makes Philadelphia a great city."

To read more about the trip and to see photos of the sites and cities she visited, go to *www.green-journey.blogspot.com*.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

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Michael Nutter Discusses his Green Agenda

Addressing a capacity crowd at the Academy of Natural Sciences on October 15, Mayor-elect Michael Nutter declared his intention to "bring about a renaissance period for Philadelphia." Whether it's achieved by leading the way in recycling, planting hundreds of thousands of trees, or revising building and zoning codes, he expressed confidence that Philadelphia could become the greenest city in the country.

Daniel Moise

Mayor-elect Michael Nutter with forum moderator Flavia Colgan

Nutter made these statements at a forum titled "The Next Mayor's Vision of a Sustainable Philadelphia," cosponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Moderated by political commentator Flavia Colgan, the proceedings had both Nutter and Republican candidate Al Taubenberger respond to videotaped questions posted on YouTube by city residents.

One person asked Nutter about energy expenses. The former city councilman expressed the desire to pursue a fully functioning energy office and form a sustainability cabinet. "Every city agency must have a plan on how to reduce energy costs and how we seek energy sources," he said before referring to recent experiments with wind energy.

Nutter also addressed global warming, saying, "Philadelphia can play a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas and improving the environment." This would include lessening toxic emissions, promoting walking and biking throughout the city, and encouraging businesses to adopt environmentally friendly practices. He continued, saying that every Philadelphian can contribute to this cause: "During my campaign I've discovered, unfortunately, how dirty Philadelphia is. First thing I'd do is encourage people to stop throwing so much trash in the street."

Parks were the subject of much discussion; both candidates expressed the desire to increase funding and staffing for the Fairmount Park System. Nutter said, "You can't do with $14 million what needs to be done with $50 million. In Chicago, they spend $400 million taking care of their park system! We're either serious about parks or we're not."

In whole the forum allowed the candidates to address the concerns of everyday Philadelphians regarding key environmental issues. J. Blaine Bonham Jr., executive vice president of PHS, said, "The quality and extent of our green environment will greatly impact the city's future. It's imperative that the next mayor lead the charge for public and private investment in our green infrastructure and inspires citizens to 'go green.'"

PHS, The Urban Sustainability Forum and Next Great City sponsored the forum, which was part of the Academy of Natural Sciences' ongoing Town Square Program.

Fundraiser for Mill Creek Farm

Sunday, December 9, 3 – 7 pm
The Ethical Society Building
1906 South Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA

Celebrate the end of the second season at Mill Creek Farm, an urban farm in West Philadelphia where Philadelphia Green has provided design and technical assistance. Learn about the farm's activities, including growing and distributing fresh produce and educating the community about food, health, urban agriculture, and sustainability. The event will include light refreshments, a silent auction, and live music. Childcare will be available.

For information and tickets, visit *www.millcreekurbanfrarm.org*, or contact the farm at 267-242-5539.

City Gardening Series

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Holiday Houseplants

Wednesday, November 14, 6 – 7 pm
South Philadelphia Branch, FLP
1700 S. Broad Street

Houseplants-Gardening with Indoor Plants

Saturday, November 17
1:30 – 2:30 pm
McPherson Square Branch, FLP
601 East Indiana Avenue

Designing Hanging Baskets

Monday, November 26, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Fishtown Community Branch, FLP
1217 E. Montgomery Avenue

Houseplants - Your Indoor Garden

Monday, December 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Richmond Branch, FLP
2987 Almond Street

In the Spotlight: Johnnie Mae Parker

Two decades ago, when Johnnie Mae Parker was looking to move, she came upon a house for sale with a mighty and magnificent tree across the street. More than the size of the closets or height of the ceilings, for her, that tree was the number-one selling point.

"It may sound silly to some, but trees give me a good feeling about life," she says. "I love waking up in the morning, looking out the window, and seeing nothing but the leaves and branches."

That's why Johnnie Mae worked with PHS and the Frankford Garden Club to have even more trees planted along her block. Although some of her neighbors were hesitant at first, Johnnie Mae reports that those who originally were most skeptical are now the biggest tree supporters.

"A city street looks so much better with trees. Beyond that, it's been my experience that trees bring the people who live on the block closer together," she says.

Community is extremely important to Johnnie Mae. As vice president of the Frankford Garden Club, she spends many afternoons with her colleagues volunteering at Womrath Park, Overington Park, and other green spaces in her neighborhood. The industrious club also lends its services to charitable causes, such as distributing flowers on holidays to recipients of hospice care.

At meetings of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board—which she has served on since 2003—Johnnie Mae enjoys hearing about what people across the city are doing to preserve open space and keep lots clean. She says, "Philadelphia Green keeps different neighborhoods connected so we can all learn from each other."

Johnnie Mae's favorite place to network with other urban activists is one of the busiest and most bustling locations imaginable: the Philadelphia Flower Show. A steadfast volunteer, she says she feeds off the energy: "I'm happy to help out at any location, but I most enjoy being in the middle of the Show floor—that's where all the action is. People come from all over to be at the Flower Show, so it's the perfect place to swap stories."

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

PHS's City Harvest program celebrated its two-year anniversary on September 27 with a celebration at the Philadelphia Prison System. Those involved with the many facets of the program came together to hear live music and moving speeches, as well as sample incredible meals featuring fresh produce from the Prison's garden. At right, Philadelphia Green senior director Joan Reilly addresses the partygoers.

Margaret Funderburg

Margaret Funderburg

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at Conshohocken-Windermere Park on September 25 celebrated the completion of a major restoration, including the installation of a picnic grove. At right, PHS president Jane Pepper stands with Ken Wood and Deborah O'Brien (center) of Bank of America, which helped fund the ongoing project.

Margaret Funderburg

FALL FOR YOUR PARK

On October 13, more than 400 people volunteered at Cobbs Creek Park and the Laura Sims Skatehouse in West Philadelphia as part of the 9th annual Fall For Your Park event. The volunteers collected trash, pruned hedges, planted trees, and much more. PHS extends a big "thank you" to everyone who attended.

"Fall For Your Park is bigger and better every year. It's inspiring to see the transformation that's possible in just one afternoon," says Kim Massare, parks network coordinator for Philadelphia Green.

Photos by Jane Carroll

2007 PHS City Gardens Contest

Launched in 1975, the PHS City Gardens Contest celebrates the efforts of Philadelphia gardeners. They compete for prizes in a range of categories, from small rooftop gardens to large community gardens that span whole city blocks. Teams of volunteer judges visit each contestant during July and August. Following are the winners of the 2007 contest. Congratulations to everyone who entered!

Community Categories

Combination Vegetable/Flower Gardens

First Place
Las Parcelas
New Jerusalem Now
Sloan Street Community Garden
The Spring Gardens
Villa Africana Colobo
55th Street & Baltimore Ave.

Second Place
Bel Arbor Community Garden
Schuylkill River Park Community Garden
South Street Community Garden
Southwark Queen Village Community Garden
Waverly Street Community Garden
1835 S. Hicks Street
706 S. 19th Street

Third Place
Awbury Arboretum Community Garden
Garden R.U.N.
Hansberry Garden & Nature Center
Pulaski-Zeralda Community Garden
5342 W. Berks Street

Honorable Mention
Journey Home
Roots Community Garden
1035-37 S. 6th Street

Flower Gardens

First Place
4632-6 Hazel Avenue
17th and Kater Streets

Second Place
Hands-On Garden of Associated Services for the Blind
Society Hill Towers
Ralston House

Third Place
The Harmony Garden
The Gas Station Garden

Honorable Mention
Stillman Street Garden
1149 S. Clarion & 1150 S. 13th Street

Garden Blocks

Corridors with window boxes & sidewalk planters

First Place
"Garden District" of Philadelphia
2400 block of Olive St.

Second Place
1500 block of E. Berks Street
1100 block of Snyder Avenue

Greenest Block in Town

Tree-lined streets

First Place
300 block of W. Hortter Street

Second Place
4600 block of Hazel Avenue
2500 block of South Cleveland Street

Third Place
2100 block of St. James Place

Honorable Mention
6200 block of Ellsworth Street

School and Children's Gardens

First Place
University City High School, Urban Nutrition Initiative
Blaine School – Strawberry Mansion Environmental Learning Center
Wilson Elementary School

Second Place
St. Francis Xavier School

Third Place
Penn Alexander School

Honorable Mention
Longstreth School

Courtyard Gardens

First Place
Lawrence Court

Heidi Hiteshue

Megan Jann's flower garden

2007 PHS City Gardens Contest

Community Parks

First Place

Friends of Cloverly Park
Friends of Mario Lanza Park

Second Place

War Memorial & Meditation Park
Friends of Campbell Square
Friends of Konrad Square
Morris Park

Third Place

Friends of Bardascino Park
Friends of Powers Park
Friends of Wissinoming Park

Honorable Mention

Beck Park
Paolone Park

Vegetable Gardens

First Place

Glenwood Green Acres
The Southerners

Second Place

15th & Butler Streets

Honorable Mention

Seedy Acres

Individual Categories

Combination Vegetable/Flower Gardens

First Place

Diane Kunze & John Neugebauer
Toney Lucas
Debbie Rhoe

Second Place

Rebecca Axe & Abad Rosa
Earl Eberwein
Clyde E. Jacobs

Third Place

Gretjen Clausing
Judith A. Gasiewski
Ann Howlett
Antoinette Russell

Honorable Mention

C. "Jimmi" Cuper
Elvira Gibson
Nykia M. Perez
Mindy Silver

Container Gardens

Includes balconies, patios, decks, and rooftops

First Place

Hester R. Beckman
Lillie Gorham
Zelma Gorham
Renaldo James
Mari Newman
Ty Stanley
Reuben Wade & Janice Smith

Second Place

Jacqueline M. Alston-Morse
Pamela Scott

Third Place

Melinda Jaeb-Morse
Amy L. Kitzen
Anna Maria Vona

Flower Gardens

First Place

Marcy Amarnek
Robert T. Beck
Alfred Bilstein
Iris Brown
Robert Duggan
Michael Esposito
Ivey Galitan
Sr. Jean Bernadette Greaux
Charlie Heiser
Alex Myers
Edward Ruback

Second Place

Carol Bates
Carrie Borgenicht
Gail Chapman
Barbara Graham
William Hughes

Heidi Hiteshue

The Ralston House community flower garden

Robert & Laurie Jacobs
Megan Jann
Kate Maus
Gabrielle Moore
Candice Price
Bernice & Jeanne Rothwarf
Rachel Stein

Third Place

Margaret & Sidney Kanefsky
Mark Kearney & Mark Bardsley
Alan McHale
William Peterson
George E. Price
Mark Raymond & Brian Wegenroth
Carol Rosenbaum
Jill Schneider
Charles & Christine Schwarz
Joan Smalarz
Janet Ward
Thomas & Diane Williams

Honorable Mention

Eloise Brown
Kenneth Carobus & Faith Angell
Frederick Edelstein
Vanesse Lloyd- Sgambati
Anna Ludlum
Roni "Dee" Ward
Walt Rininsland

Vegetable Gardens

First Place

Karl Dollmann Sr. & Karl Dollmann Jr.
Lawrence King
Alan McHale

Second Place

Fred Indictor
Ernest Meyer
Lillian Ritter

Third Place

John Milko
Eva Sanders
John Caniz

New Leadership for Philadelphia Green

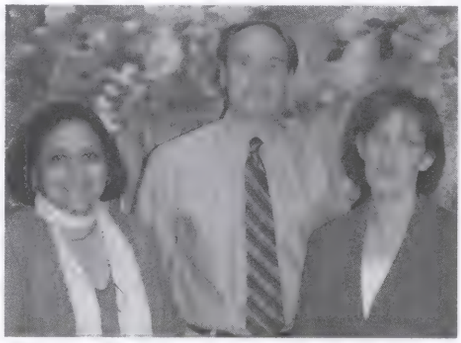
Philadelphia Green is pleased to announce recent changes in leadership: Mike Groman, who has led the program since 2000, is now PHS's senior director for state, regional, and national outreach. This newly created position reflects Philadelphia Green's expansion beyond the city's borders to promote urban greening.

Currently Mike is developing a plan for partnering with smaller urban centers in southeast Pennsylvania. He is also laying the groundwork for a national initiative to promote Philadelphia Green's successful Vacant Land Management Project as a model to other cities that grapple with abandoned land.

In Mike's stead, two long-time directors of Philadelphia Green will assume full responsibility for the program as senior directors. Together, Joan Reilly and Maitreyi Roy will work to strengthen and expand Philadelphia Green's partnerships with residents, corporations, city and state government, and community-based and environmental organizations.

Joan and Maitreyi will also continue to develop new environmental initiatives to advance PHS's Green City Strategy, which promotes increased investment in green infrastructure as a vital tool for urban revitalization.

Best wishes to Mike, Joan, and Maitreyi as they take on their new responsibilities.



From left to right: Maitreyi Roy, Mike Groman, and Joan Reilly

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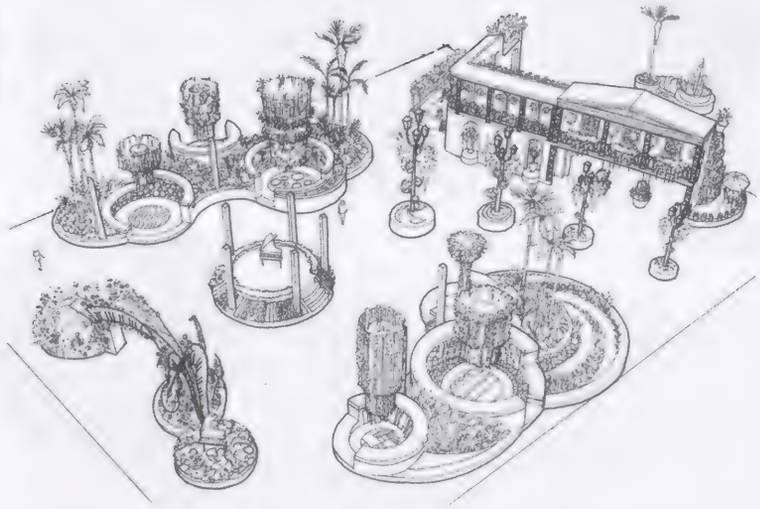
Jazz It Up! at the 2008 Philadelphia Flower Show

The 2008 Philadelphia Flower Show, with its theme of Jazz It Up!, will transport visitors to the incomparable city of New Orleans. Now in its 179th year, the Show will include 10 acres of inspired gardens set to the tune of toe-tapping entertainment.

Artists at Work



An artistic rendering of the 2008 Show.

Practical ideas will inspire gardeners of all levels to express themselves through plants, color, and texture and to jazz up their own spaces.

Flower Show design director Sam Lemheney, who traveled to the Big Easy last spring, will put together a series of dramatic displays that exude the energy of New Orleans. The journey will begin under an archway of colorful floating piano keys and musical notes bursting with flowers. Visitors can then swing over to the "Rhythm Rooms," a contemporary twist on the speakeasies of the 1920s. Over-the-top floral chandeliers, full-size palm trees, and imaginative garden rooms will push the limits of "outside-in" décor, while Southern plants from magnolias to oleanders will abound.

Set in the heart of the Rhythm Rooms is a one-of-a-kind piano decorated by world-renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly. The Legends Stage, presented by Settlement Music School, will feature classical and contemporary performances daily.

Visitors can then venture to the French Quarter, where hanging gardens will drip from cast-iron balconies. Here the Bourbon Street Stage will showcase "N'awlins" jazz by both New Orleans and Philadelphia artists. Guests can join in a "Second Line Stroll" along the way. A complete entertainment schedule will be available at www.theflowershow.com.

Cutting-edge gardening is still the number-one attraction for visitors. The nation's top landscape and floral designers will expand on the jazz theme with a multitude of great gardens that feature everything from orchids on the bayou to a juke joint in the woods. Educational exhibits highlighting the latest in sustainability, native plantings, and green products will also be featured.

Visitors can check out the newly designed PHS Village to learn more about PHS activities, including educational opportunities, awards, and Philadelphia Green. Proceeds generated by the Flower Show support the work of Philadelphia Green.

Garden clubs and area gardeners will compete with their own jazz-inspired arbors, entryways, window boxes, and miniatures. On the Show floor, visitors can view hundreds of varieties of perfectly groomed bulbs, orchids, and other potted plants grown by both novices and experts.

In addition to thousands of plant and flower arrangements, experts from across the country will give educational presentations throughout Show week. From in-depth lectures to hands-on demonstrations, these programs will highlight the latest trends. A complete schedule of special events will be available online at www.theflowershow.com.

See you at the Show!

Philadelphia Flower Show

March 2 – 9, 2008
Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA
www.theflowershow.com

Hours: Sundays, March 2 & 9, 8 am - 6 pm
Mon. - Fri., March 3 - 7, 10 am - 9:30 pm
Saturday, March 8, 8 am - 9:30 pm

General Admission at the Show:
Adults: $28 on Opening Sunday (March 2)
$26 on weekends and $24 weekdays
Children 2 - 16: $13 (good any day)
Students (ages 17-24): $17 (Student tickets are available at Box Office only. Must present a valid student ID and proof of age.)

Advance Tickets:
Adults: $22
Children 2 - 16: $13
Group tickets (25 or more adults): $21.50

For more information, please visit *www.theflowershow.com* or call 215-988-8899 (recorded information).

City Gardening Series

The City Gardening Series is supported through a collaborative partnership with **Chanticleer…A Pleasure Garden** in Wayne, PA. These events are free, open to the public, and held at branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia (FLP) unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact 215-988-8872 or citygardening@pennhort.org.

Growing Herbs Indoors

Friday, February 8, 11 am – 12 pm
Perzel Community Center
2990 St. Vincent Street
Horticultural therapist Mona Gold demonstrates how to keep indoor herb gardens thriving year-round.

Seed Starting Indoors

Wednesday, February 13, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
South Philadelphia Branch, FLP
1700 S. Broad Street
Get a jump on spring! Master gardener Robin Potter shows how to successfully start plants from seeds.

Gardening in Containers

Monday, February 25, 6 – 7 pm
Philadelphia City Institute, FLP
1905 Locust Street
In a slideshow presentation, garden designer Toni Ann Flanigan shares ways to create an attractive container garden.

The Perennial Garden

Friday, March 14, 11 am –12 pm
Perzel Community Center
2990 St. Vincent Street
Environmental educator and garden writer Charlotte Kidd explains plant selection and planning for a perennial garden.

In the Spotlight: Kate Houstoun

Kate Houstoun is proud to be a Philadelphian. So much so she created a word to describe her condition: Philacentric. After graduating from the University of Delaware and working three months in Mexico, Kate knew she wanted to settle in her hometown city.

It wasn't long after her return that Kate began working for the Philadelphia branch of Ready, Willing & Able (RWA), a New York-based group that employs, empowers, and supports homeless individuals in their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency.

"I couldn't have dreamt of a better job," she says five years later. "It allowed me to connect with the city and its people in a meaningful way." And despite the time that's passed, Kate still has great enthusiasm for the work of RWA.

Through her duties as the deputy director for community affairs, Kate established a working relationship with Philadelphia Green. The PHS program was looking to reclaim abandoned vacant land, and RWA had men in need of work. The pairing was an instant success.

"In our work we often face a lot of skepticism, but it's a great joy to change people's opinions about the capability of homeless people," she says. "Fortunately everyone at Philadelphia Green had great faith in RWA and the capacity of community groups to restore vacant land. The partnership between our two organizations became the pilot for the Community LandCare project, and it's grown by leaps and bounds since then."

Presently Community LandCare maintains more than 4 million square feet of vacant land. In addition to RWA, 11 community-run work teams provide basic landscaping services in neighborhoods throughout the city.

"What I love most about this project is that it allows many of the RWA participants to serve their communities by making them safer and more attractive. When they return home, they bring back those values and become good neighbors," Kate says. "What makes Philadelphia Green and RWA so compatible is the similarity of their missions. Both organizations produce incredible transformations. Whether that's a person or a parcel of land, it all works toward making the city great."

Due to her involvement in Community LandCare, Kate was invited to serve on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board in 2006. She says, "The Advisory Board is a diverse group of people united by the common goal of making Philadelphia greener and cleaner. We've set a lot of goals and intend to accomplish them."

Kate is also a part of the recently launched PHS Young Friends group. As such, she gets to network with others in her age group who are equally passionate about the city's future. "Being a Young Friend is rewarding and fun. I remember I went to the first meeting and already knew more than half the people there. That's Philly for you!" she says with a laugh.

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

1.

Amanda León

2.

Margaret Funderburg

1. Volunteer Jeanne Walsh pitches in by pruning hostas at an Azalea Garden workday. Join the fun on the third Saturday of each month—April through November—from 9 am to 12 noon.

2. Hansberry Garden in Germantown recently hosted a City Harvest "Gleaning Day," when donations of home-grown produce were collected for distribution to needy families. Here Hansberry gardeners pose with employees of nonprofit partner SHARE.

3. Beauty can be found both inside and outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art, thanks to Philadelphia Green's dedicated volunteer contingent. Here Susan Pennell lops the limbs of a tree during a workday.

4. Philadelphia Green hosted the annual Party for the Parks in December. Nearly 320 people representing 30 parks attended the event. Victor Richard, then-commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Recreation (left), received a symbolic check for $1,350,000 representing the value of labor contributed by volunteers. Making the presentation were (left to right) Laurel Sweeney, of the Fisher Park Community Alliance; Vicki Burks of the Friends of Cliveden Park; and Fairmount Park employee Joan Blatstein .

5. For some species of trees, fall is the perfect time for planting. Here members of the newly formed Northeast Tree Tenders group spend a Saturday morning helping the South Philadelphia Tree Tenders adorn a street in Passyunk with saplings.

3.

Amanda León

4.

Margaret Funderburg

5.

Mike Hardy

Everything's Coming Up Roses

Spring at Mander Playground in East Park will be especially beautiful due to the 25 trees and 70 rosebushes planted last autumn. Chess players will enjoy the roses' fragrance at six recently installed game tables.

"Fairmount Park, the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, the East Park Revitalization Alliance, and Citizens Bank Foundation united with Philadelphia Green to make this extraordinary improvement possible," says Tammy Leigh DeMent, Philadelphia Green parks coordinator. "This park proves the power of partnership."

Above: East Park Revitalization Alliance volunteer coordinator Gail Gayle plants roses with Patty McCole, recreation leader for Mander Playground.

Left: A team from All Seasons Landscaping installs a game table.

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PHILADELPHIA GREEN. NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

Celebrate Parks this Spring

On April 26, Philadelphia Green will host the ninth annual **Spring Into Your Park.** This citywide event is the kickoff to a season of park cleanups, educational activities, flea markets, plant sales, and music festivals.

Margaret Funderburg

Above: A group gathers at Pretzel Park in Manayunk for Spring Into Your Park 2007.

Below: A young volunteer at Conshohocken Windermere Park.

Pete Prown

Last year, 2,000 volunteers helped revitalize 60 parks throughout Philadelphia. Besides collecting 2,000 bags of trash and debris, they also planted more than 2,000 annuals and nearly 100 trees. This remarkable event is supported by the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, Fairmount Park, and the William Penn Foundation.

"Spring Into Your Park is one of my favorite days of the year," says Joan Reilly, senior director of Philadelphia Green. "It is inspiring to see so many people come together in the name of neighborhood parks."

What makes this year's event all the more exciting is that it coincides with the fifteenth anniversary of the Parks Revitalization Project. A collaboration among Philadelphia Green, the City of Philadelphia, and volunteer "Friends of the Park" groups, the Parks Revitalization Project has transformed formally dismal neighborhood parks into verdant green spaces and centers of community life.

Even the smallest park can have a major impact. Studies show that greener urban landscapes promote social interaction, reduce crime, and improve the health of residents by offering recreation opportunities. An attractive park signals a safe, stable neighborhood and gives residents reasons to invest and partake in the community.

More than 90 parks are a part of the Parks Revitalization Project, most of which offer seasonal programming such as concerts, movie nights, community festivals, and farmers' markets. Philadelphia Green supports these events by marketing them citywide as the Summer in the Neighborhood series.

Joan says, "As the weather begins to warm, there's nowhere better than a park. I encourage all Philadelphians to discover everything their local park has to offer."

Jane Carroll

Spring Into Your Park 2008

Join the fun on Saturday, April 26. Most events start at noon, but to learn more about your local park's activities, call 215-988-8800 or email *parks@pennhort.org.*

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

Above: Maiken Scott, a producer and host at WHYY, moderates the forum.

On February 19, PHS co-hosted a Town Hall Meeting at the WHYY television studios in Philadelphia. A lively discussion of environmental issues, the forum served as a follow-up to the documentary series *Edens Lost & Found*. Produced by the Media & Policy Center Foundation, *Edens* highlights the greening efforts of four U.S. cities including Philadelphia.

On March 3, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council presented its annual Sustainability Awards. At the event, PEC recognized TreeVitalize, a private-public partnership that has planted more than 20,000 trees in Southeastern Pennsylvania. PHS has been a leading partner of TreeVitalize since the latter's 2003 inception.

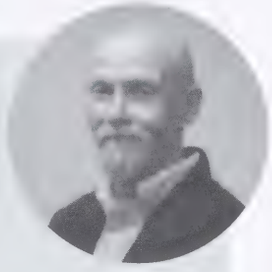
Below: On-air meteorologist Erica Grow of 6-ABC's Action News presents the Sustainability Award to Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Photos: Tammy Leigh DeMent & Margaret Funderburg

On March 9, PHS hosted a brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show to acknowledge some of Philadelphia Green's most steadfast partners, including the Center City District, the Interstate Land Management Corporation, Penn's Landing Corporation, and Sunoco Incorporated's Northeast refinery. Long-time community gardener Hayward Ford received the first-ever Philadelphia Green Leadership Award.

Above: Hayward Ford (center) of the Aspen Farms community garden stands with PHS executive vice president J. Blaine Bonham Jr. (left) and J. William Mills III, the regional president of PNC Bank.

In the Spotlight: Paul Malvey



Fishtown resident Paul Malvey understands the good fortune of being at the right place at the right time. Having been a volunteer at the New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC), he leaped at the chance to work there fulltime. "I remember they asked me if I knew someone who would be interested in joining the staff. I said, 'I sure do. Me!'" Paul recalls with a laugh.

The year was 1997 and, fortunately for Paul, the NKCDC was about to spearhead a major neighborhood-wide regeneration. "Through Philadelphia Green, we inventoried the area's vacant lots and began to turn them into parks and green spaces. This sort of work had been done before, but never in such a concentrated way," he says.

Starting with major arteries such as Girard Avenue, it wasn't long before New Kensington residents sought out Paul and his coworkers, wanting to know if the lots near or adjacent to their homes could be reclaimed as well. "Not only did they want to see the change, but they also wanted to be a part of it," Paul says of his neighbors. "Everyday people emerged as leaders. They felt empowered, purposeful, and proud of their community."

Paul describes this renaissance as a "joyful time" that continues to this day. "Cleaning the lots has made such a difference to the neighborhood—a complete 180," Paul says. "There are more businesses than before. Traffic has slowed down. Now you can even appreciate the architecture of the area."

Although he no longer works for NKCDC, Paul hopes to contribute to the community through his latest endeavor: Greenation, LLC. A landscaping business, Greenation marks Paul's return to self-employment. (He and two associates ran a similar enterprise for 20 years.) Paul gives back in other ways, too. He is an active volunteer for the Friends of Konrad Square Park and is a part of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board.

"The best word to describe the Advisory Board is 'uplifting,'" Paul says. "After every meeting I go away thinking, 'There are a lot of committed people in this city,' and I'm proud to be a part of that." He is particularly invested in seeing Philadelphia Green serve as a model for other communities in the region, state, and beyond: "I've always believed that the lessons we've learned and the programs we've launched should be recreated elsewhere. Whether it's environmental, economic, or on a human scale, with greening you can't lose."

Photos: Tammy Leigh Bement & Margaret Vanderburg

City Gardening Series

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Bus Trip to Historic Pennsbury Manor
Monday, April 21, 9 – 2 pm

Pennsbury Manor, the recreated country home of William Penn in Bucks County, PA, provides a peaceful contrast to the hurry of modern life. There will be an opportunity to help out with some easy garden tasks, please dress accordingly. Bus will leave PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, at 9 am sharp, returning by 3 pm. Due to limited space, registration and a $10.00 fee are required. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. For more information and to register by Monday, April 14, please call 215-988-8872.

Lots of Pots — Growing Vegetables
Monday, April 28, 6 – 7 pm
Haverford Branch, FLP
5543 Haverford Avenue

You don't need a plot of land to grow fresh vegetables. Community gardener Janet Carter shares how container gardening can offer high yields in small spaces.

Window Boxes & other Containers
Saturday, May 3, 11 am – 12 noon
Blackwell Branch, FLP
125 S. 52nd Street

Janet Carter suggests ways a window box and other containers can be a fun and an ideal way to garden.

Growing Roses in Containers
Monday, May 5, 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Independence Branch, FLP
18 S. 7th Street

Roses can be grown quite successfully in containers. Master gardener Mary McKnight discusses how to match the container and location to the needs of the rose.

Designing and Maintaining Window Boxes
Wednesday, May 7, 6 – 7 pm
Philadelphia City Institute, FLP
1905 Locust Street

Master gardener Robin Potter will share inventive ideas, advice and hints for gardening in window boxes.

Kitchen Garden in a Pot
Monday, May 12, 4 – 5 pm
Lillian Marrero Branch, FLP
601 W. Lehigh Ave.

Horticulturist Charlotte Kidd provides suggestions for growing herbs and vegetables in pots, hanging baskets and other patio containers.

Herbs in Containers
Wednesday, May 14, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Torresdale Branch, FLP
3079 Holme Avenue

Herbs are among the easiest plants to grow in containers. Here are tips on growing some of the best herbs for the container garden.

Chanticleer through the Seasons – Spring
Thursday, May 15, 4:30 – 9 pm

Join us for an enchanting evening at Chanticleer, a 32-acre garden of ever-changing colors and textures. Chanticleer staffer Jonathan Wright will lead a tour of early season containers. Buses will leave PHS, 100 North 20th Street, at 4:30 pm sharp, returning by 9 pm. Please bring a light supper. Snacks and refreshments will be supplied. Due to limited space, registration for this event and a $5 fee are required. For more information and to register by Thursday, May 8, call 215-988-8872.

Water Gardens in Small Spaces
Saturday, May 17, 10 – 11 am
Holly Street Community Garden
321-323 N. Holly Street

Water features are enchanting additions to any size garden and can range from a simple wine barrel to a naturalistic pool with a waterfall. Community gardener Joe Revlock will talk about techniques for a variety of water gardens.

Growing Herbs Indoors
Tuesday, May 20, 11 am – 12 noon
Walnut Park Plaza Senior Residence
6250 Walnut Street

Don't have garden space? Janet Carter demonstrates how to keep your indoor herb garden thriving for year-round enjoyment.

Invite Birds to Your Garden
Wednesday, May 21, 6 – 7 pm
Eastwick Branch, FLP
2851 Island Ave.

Environmental educator Liz Daily discusses how to use a blend of trees, shrubs, vines and flowers that provide food over a long period.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Annuals
Saturday, May 24, 2 – 3 pm
Blanche Nixon/Cobbs Creek Branch, FLP
5800 Cobbs Creek Parkway

Lori Hayes provides the basic information on planting annuals and simple design technique.

Growing Fruits and Vegetables in Containers
Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
South Philadelphia Branch, FLP
1700 S. Broad Street

If you thought containers were only for flowers, think again! Eva Monheim shares ways to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables grown in containers.

Dependable Perennials
Saturday, May 31, 2 – 3 pm
Frankford Branch, FLP
4634 Frankford Avenue

Join us as Janet Carter offers advice about plant selection, choosing the right spot, and planting techniques for growing perennials in the garden.

Gardening with Annuals
Wednesday, June 4, 6 – 7:30 pm
Tacony Branch, FLP
6742 Torresdale Avenue

What is an annual? Charlotte Kidd demonstrates basics for soil preparation, planting, and ongoing maintenance for annuals. There will be an opportunity to help with planting, please bring gloves.

Creating Beautiful Containers in Small Spaces
Saturday, June 7, 2 – 3 pm
Wynnefield Branch, FLP
5325 Overbrook Ave.

How to create lush and colorful container gardens when space is limited.

Drought Tolerant Plants for the Landscape
Monday, June 9, 6 – 7:30 pm
Holmesburg Branch, FLP
7810 Frankford Ave.

Choosing these plants in the garden reduces the need to supply extra water for the garden.

PHS Gold Medal Plants
Wednesday, June 11, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Holmesburg Branch, FLP
7810 Frankford Ave.

Horticulturist Mia Mengucci will talk about which trees, shrubs and vines are recommended for the mid-Atlantic homeowner, garden and landscape.

Herbs 101
Saturday, June 14, 1:30 – 2:30 pm
Foxchase Branch, FLP
501 Rhawn Street

Horticultural therapist Mona Gold will discuss and demonstrate what every gardener should know about growing, caring for and using herbs.

Bus trip to Meadowbrook Farm
Meadowbrook, PA
Wednesday, June 18, 9 am – 3 pm

Meadowbrook Farm sits on 25 acres north of Philadelphia in Abington Township. Meadowbrook staffer Glenn Ashton will lead a workshop focusing on Zone 7 tender perennials. Bus will leave PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, at 9 am sharp, returning by 3 pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Due to limited space, registration and a $10 fee are required. For more information and to register by June 12, call 215-988-8872.

Window Boxes and Other Containers
Monday, June 23, 6 – 7 pm
Whitman Branch, FLP
200 Snyder Avenue

Learn how to plant window box container gardens in this free home gardening program.

The Summer Vegetable Garden
Wednesday, June 25, 6:30 – 7 pm
Tacony Branch, FLP
6742 Torresdale Avenue

Grow vegetables in summer. This class covers all the different kinds of vegetables you could grow in the home vegetable garden.

The Mixed Flower Border
Saturday, June 28, 1:30 – 2:30 pm
Foxchase Branch, FLP
501 Rhawn Street

With helpful tips, Eva Monheim will take the mystery out of figuring out how to mix flowers and plants in border-type gardens.

A Next Generation Tree Tender

Amid college applications and SATs, 17-year-old Hasan Malik still finds time to green his neighborhood. As a founding member of the Northeast Tree Tenders, he's exhibited an uncommon commitment to the environment.

"Hasan is one of the youngest graduates of Tree Tenders we've had," says Mike Hardy, education specialist at PHS. "He's incredibly mature for his age."

He's ambitious, too. Hasan designed a website to help spread the word about his Tree Tenders group. He is also raising funds among his classmates at Masterman High School for bare-root tree plantings.

"There were a lot more trees when I was growing up, so I want to do my part to make the neighborhood better," Hasan says.

As of now, 23 trees are slated for planting this spring—a number that continues to grow as Hasan explores different means for funding and support. "The group is still finding its roots," he says, "but I anticipate we'll make a major difference in the Northeast."

To learn more about the Northeast Tree Tenders, visit *NorthEastTreeTenders.com.*

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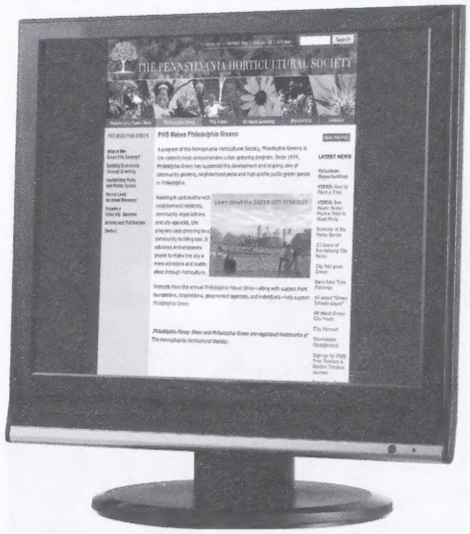


After a successful 30-year run, *Philadelphia Green News* is embracing the digital age. From now on, instead of receiving a printed piece, you can visit ***philadelphiagreen.org*** for all the latest greening information in the city and region.

"The purpose of *Philadelphia Green News* has always been to keep our large base of volunteers and community leaders connected. By enhancing our web content, we'll be able to provide more information in a timelier manner," says Maitreyi Roy, senior director of Philadelphia Green.

Of course members of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will continue to receive regular updates on Philadelphia Green happenings via the members' newsletter, *PHS News*. In fact, the editors are planning to amplify the Philadelphia Green content.

As for the improved website, look forward to photos from community events, important local information, and greening news. The website will also allow for greater interactivity. "We want to know what's happening around the city. The web will improve our capacity for networking," says Joan Reilly, senior director of Philadelphia Green. "We'll be enhancing the site throughout the summer. I'm confident *philadelphiagreen.org* will be a tremendous resource."

Enter the 2008 Green Scene *magazine "Garden Photo Contest"*

We want to see your best photos of gardens, flowers, landscapes and people outdoors enjoying nature. The contest's judges—all professional photographers and gardeners from across the region—will be looking for knock-out images that capture the joy of gardening and nature. Winning photos will be published in the January/February 2009 issue of *Green Scene* magazine and on the PHS website.

Photos can be shot in any format, but must be submitted as 4 x 6- or 5 x 7-inch prints with your name, phone number, and email address on the back. No submissions by email or on CD will be accepted. The deadline for entries is September 15, 2008.

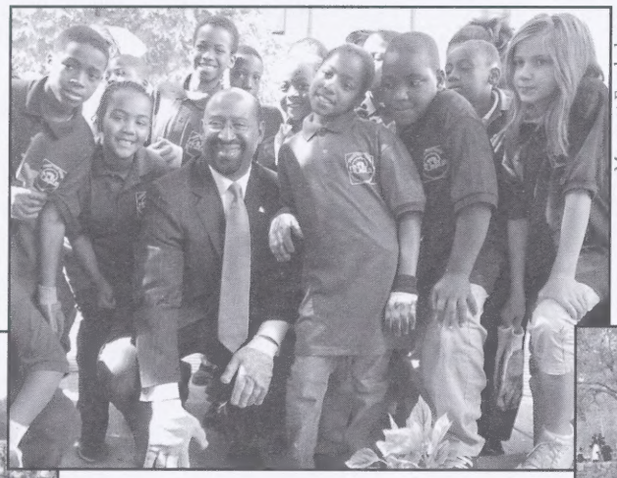
Prizes include a Nikon CoolPix LII digital camera and a fun photography assignment for *Green Scene* magazine.

For more information, please visit *www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org*, email *greenscene@pennhort.org*, or call 215-988-8871.

Philadelphia Green Happenings

Here's a look at some recent highlights from Philadelphia Green.

On Friday, April 25, schoolchildren from across the region celebrated Earth Day in a major way. The annual **PHS Kids Grow Expo** at Temple University Ambler features the Junior Flower Show, which displays the nature-inspired exhibits of over a hundred youths.



Margaret Funderburg

Philadelphia is in full bloom after the ninth annual **Spring Into Your Park.** The popular event motivated 2,000 city residents to plant annuals, perennials, and trees in 68 parks across the city.

Pete Prown

As **City Hall in Bloom** sponsors for the third consecutive year, KPMG and more than 300 of its employees teamed up with Fairmount Park to adorn Love Park, Logan Square, and the grounds surrounding City Hall with stunning annuals. Other hardworking attendees included PHS staff and volunteers, students of the Bache Martin Elementary School, and Mayor Michael Nutter.

Margaret Funderburg

In the Spotlight: Winnie Harris

Like so many greening advocates in the area, Winnie Harris is a proud graduate of the PHS Garden Tenders course. She attended the intensive workshop years ago when she and a neighbor, Sheila Henry, decided to convert an empty lot near their homes into a garden. Little did Winnie know then that it was the first step toward a major career change.

"In trying to start the garden I met lots of fantastic people and eventually joined the UC Green tree-pruning club," she recalls. "When UC Green had a job opening, I realized it was an opportunity to merge two of my passions: community activism and greening." So Winnie, a professional interior designer, traded in her color swatches and sketchbook for shovels, rakes, and seeds.

Now, nearly three years later, Winnie has no regrets. As the program and volunteer coordinator for UC Green, she furthers the organization's mission to promote, coordinate, and support volunteer community greening in University City and the surrounding neighborhoods in West Philadelphia.

"One thing I love about this job is that you never know when you're going to get a compliment. Sometimes people driving by see me planting or pruning trees and will roll down their window and yell 'thank you!' as they pass," Winnie laughs.

For UC Green, 2008 is shaping up to be a banner year. On April 5, Mayor Nutter and 400-plus volunteers convened at the Woodland Recreation Center to plant 88 trees (funded by the American Cities Foundation). Throughout the summer, the tree-pruning club will meet Monday evenings, and in the daytime a "UC Green Corps" of high school students will water and care for newly planted trees. "Volunteers are the key to our success," Winnie says. "Before the year is out they'll have helped us plant more than 500 trees."

A longtime Philadelphia Flower Show volunteer and a recent addition to the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, Winnie says the secret to success is persistence: "If Plan A doesn't work, you move on to Plan B. Nothing is impossible if you keep working toward your goal." As proof, the vacant-lot-turned-garden near her home is thriving. Named the Holly Street Neighbors Community Garden, the tranquil space has been recognized the past two years by the judges of PHS's City Gardens Contest.

City Gardening Series

The City Gardening Series is supported through a collaborative partnership with **Chanticleer…A Pleasure Garden** in Wayne, PA. These events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact 215-988-8872 or *citygardening@pennhort.org*.

Kitchen Garden in a Pot
Thursday, July 10, 6 – 7 pm
Dickinson Square Park
Parsons Building (located inside the park)
4th & Tasker streets
Environmental educator Liz Dailey discusses why a kitchen garden does not necessarily require much land or equipment.

Drought-Tolerant Plants
Friday, July 11, 11 am – 12 noon
Perzel Community Center
2990 St. Vincent Street
Many plants can tolerate dry garden conditions once they are established. This workshop provides information on some durable plants.

Gardening in Containers
Saturday, July 12, 9:30 – 10:30 am
Saunders Park
325 N. 39th Street
Environmental educator Lori Hayes shares ideas for choosing and combining plants for a variety of planters and containers.

Creating Hanging Baskets
Monday, July 14, 1 – 2 pm
Walnut Park Plaza Senior Residence
6250 Walnut Street
Janet Carter shares tips for creating beautiful displays in hanging baskets and planters.

Chanticleer through the Seasons – Summer
Thursday, July 17, 4:30 – 9 pm
Join us for an enchanting evening at Chanticleer, 32-acres of ever-changing colors and textures. Chanticleer staffer Laura Aiken will lead a tour focusing on attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to the garden. The bus will leave PHS, 100 North 20th Street, at 4:30 pm *sharp*, returning by 9 pm. Please bring a light supper. Snacks and refreshments will be supplied. Space is limited; *registration and a $5 fee are required* before July 10. For more information, call 215-988-8872.

Margaret Funderburg

Wild Plants & Weeds: Unexpected Stories
Saturday, July 19, 10 am – 12 noon
Bartram's Garden
54th St. and Lindbergh Blvd.
Tour the grounds with Bartram gardener Mandy Katz and learn about edible, medicinal, and other practical uses of "weeds" and wild plants. Plant folklore from European, African, Asian, and Native American cultures will be discussed.

Made in the Shade
Thursday, August 14, 6 – 7 pm
Dickinson Square Park
Parsons Building (located inside the park)
4th & Tasker streets
Shade-loving plants are discussed.

Fall Container Gardens
Friday, August 15, 11 am – 12 noon
Perzel Community Center
2990 St. Vincent Street
Sorry to see the warm weather go? This workshop will focus on how to create wonderful fall container gardens using foliage and flowering plants.

Growing and Caring for African Violets
Monday, August 18, 1 – 2 pm
Walnut Park Plaza Senior Residence
6250 Walnut Street

The Late-Season Perennial Garden
Wednesday, August 20, 7 – 8 pm
Campbell Square Community Park
2500 block of East Allegheny Avenue
(Belgrade Street & Allegheny Avenue)
Join us as we demonstrate how fall perennial gardens can be spectacular!

Bus trip to Triple Oaks Nursery and Herb Farm in Franklinville, NJ
Thursday, August 21, 9 am – 3 pm
This trip will include an herb talk and farm tour led by Lorraine Kiefer. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Bus will leave PHS, 100 North 20th Street, at 9 am *sharp*, returning by 3 pm. Space is limited; *registration and a $10 fee* are required by August 14. To register, please call 215-988-8872.

20,000 Trees and Counting!

Margaret Funderburg

On April 26, the region's green leaders convened to plant the 20,000th tree of the TreeVitalize program. The milestone celebration took place at Muhammed Park in West Philadelphia. *From left to right: Donna Griffin (Philadelphia Weed & Seed); Jannie Blackwell (Philadelphia City Council); Michael DiBerardinis (PA DCNR); J. Blaine Bonham Jr. (PHS); Mark Focht (Fairmount Park Commission); Sister Aisamah Muhammad (Lancaster Avenue Business Association); Mike Cormany (Friends of Muhammed Park); Leo Dignam (Philadelphia Dept. of Recreation).*

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